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THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Disciplined bowling & an unbeaten 87 by opener Sanju Samson help Chennai Super Kings stay in hunt for IPL playoffs with eight-wicket win over Delhi Capitals. Batting first on a tough pitch backfired for hosts Delhi, who slipped to 69-5 before posting 155-7, **P 22**

The toll after an explosion at a fireworks factory in the southern city of Liuyang in China's Hunan province **rises to 26**, even as authorities rescue seven people and evacuate everyone within a 3km radius

Balochistan Liberation Front **claims responsibility for carrying out 10 operations across Balochistan**, stating 10 Pakistani personnel and four individuals it described as state agents were killed

Google DeepMind, Microsoft and xAI sign agreements that will give US govt access to tech giants' new AI models to evaluate them before they are released. The partnerships, reached under Biden, were renegotiated by Donald Trump, **P 19**

Court orders FIR against pilot in MP boat tragedy

A Jabalpur court on Tuesday ordered Bargi police to file an FIR within two days regarding the April 30 cruise tragedy that claimed 13 lives. Taking suo motu cognisance, it cited alleged negligence by pilot, abandonment of passengers, and invoked sections of BNS. **P 14**

Lawrence gang aide shot dead in Canada

The alleged "accountant" for Lawrence Bishnoi network in Canada was fatally shot in a busy office building in Surrey on Monday. Police suspect a targeted hit. Possible pro-Khalistan links are under probe. Shortly after the killing, a Facebook post in the name of Rohit Godara, a fugitive gangster, claimed responsibility for the murder. **P 14**

Mann, ex-AAP MPs meet Prez same day

In separate meetings with the President, while Punjab CM Mann sought termination of membership of the six RS members from the state, MP Raghav Chadha alleged "dangerous vendetta politics" against them. TNN

Mazumdar-Shaw picks niece as successor

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, founder and chairperson of Biocon, has named her niece Claire Mazumdar as her successor. Claire is the daughter of Mazumdar-Shaw's brother. **P 20**

'Pak terrorists got military funerals'

Pakistan politician Shaheer Sialvi has admitted that their army honoured terrorists killed in Op Sindoor with military funerals, exposing institutional backing for Hafiz Saeed, Masood Azhar, Let and JeM. **P 14**

Blast outside BSF Punjab Frontier HQ

A blast took place in a scooter parked just outside the BSF Punjab Frontiers headquarters in Jalandhar around 8pm on Tuesday, injuring the vehicle's owner. The nature of the blast is not yet clear.

K'taka minister's kin held for stealing

A relative of housing minister Zameer Ahmed Khan is among two men arrested for allegedly stealing jewellery worth Rs 1.1 crore from the minister's residence near Cantonment railway station. **P 5**

Election rigged by EC, won't resign as CM, says Mamata

Law Applies To All: Bengal CEO

Tamaghna Banerjee, Saikat Ray & Amit Anand Choudhary

Kolkata/New Delhi: Mamata Banerjee Tuesday refused to resign as West Bengal chief minister, asserting that she does not recognise the election outcome and claiming a "moral victory" for her party. "I was on the streets, I will be on the streets. I won't leave the battlefield," she said.

Addressing her first presser after BJP's landslide win, the outgoing CM alleged "large-scale manipulation" of the electoral process, which, she claimed, had been rigged by the EC, PM and Union home minister to ensure her party's defeat. TMC won 80 seats in the 294-member assembly, while BJP's tally was 207.

Reacting to the statement, state EC CEO Manoj Agarwal said, "She has been MP, MLA multiple times. She understands constitutional laws better than most. How can I speak on this? The law applies to all."

▶**We haven't lost, P 10**

4 DEAD IN POST-POLL VIOLENCE ACROSS SEVERAL DISTS

- At least 4 dead, including 2 in Kolkata, dozens wounded and **party offices ransacked** as rival cadres from **BJP and TMC clash overnight** in several districts
- ED issues **lookout notice for Kolkata DCP Shantanu Sinha Biswas** in land-grab probe
- **ED set to question TMC ministers Sujit Bose and Rathin Ghosh** in municipality recruitment 'scam'. Other ED probes on TMC likely to be speeded up
- **'Only Hindus allowed'** banner appears at entrance of Kankalitala temple in Bengal's Bolpur, one of Birbhum's five Shakti Peethas

Photo: ANI

A TMC office being vandalised in Asansol. Kolkata Police warned people against sharing fake posts to stoke unrest

Didi has no option but to quit post, say legal experts

Legal experts said Mamata Banerjee has no option but to pave the way for a new govt after the tenure of assembly expires on May 8. The constitutional position is unambiguous: once the polls have been concluded and certificates issued to the elected MLAs by EC, the outgoing House automatically stands dissolved. **P 17**

New CM likely to take oath on May 9, Tagore's birthday; Adhikari frontrunner

The drill for formation of a BJP govt in Bengal has kicked in, with the party aiming to get its CM sworn in on May 9, coinciding with Tagore's birthday. Home minister Amit Shah is likely to preside over the meeting of newly elected MLAs, amid indications that Suvendu Adhikari had emerged as frontrunner among probables for the top post who are expected to be scrutinised by the party brass in a late-evening huddle. Sources said the governor may soon announce dissolution of the assembly, whose term runs out on Friday. Bengal BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya said the oath-taking ceremony is likely to be at Kolkata's legendary Maidan. **P 8**

▶**How Amit Shah plotted Didi's downfall, P 17**

₹2.5L cr loan guarantee plan to help cos tackle war impact

Govt's Bid To Help Businesses From MSMEs To Airlines

New Delhi: The Modi govt on Tuesday approved an over Rs 2.5 lakh crore loan facility, backstopped by the Centre, to help businesses – from MSMEs to airlines – deal with the impact of the West Asia crisis by providing additional funding.

For several companies, payment cycles have become longer as ships are taking longer routes and freight rate has shot up, while there are others who are shelling out more for inputs, raw material and fuel. This has increased their requirement for finance, and the scheme seeks to fill that gap through additional credit up to 20% of the peak working capital used during the fourth quarter of last year, with an overall cap of Rs 100 crore. For airlines, up to 100% of the working capital used with a Rs 1,500 crore cap per borrower has been prescribed by the Union cabinet.

Using the Covid-era playbook, the cabinet approved Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0 to provide credit guarantee coverage of 100% for MSMEs and 90% for other companies, including airlines. National Credit Guarantee Trustee Co Ltd will provide guarantees for the amount in default under the additional credit facility extended to eligible borrowers. TNN

▶**Loan initiative, P 20**

Plan to put Vande on same footing as nat'l anthem cleared

Cabinet has approved a proposal to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, which would put National Song Vande Mataram on the same footing as the National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana, **reports Dipak Dash**. At present, the provision of jail or fine or both is applicable for insults to Indian National Flag and Constitution of India and prevention of singing of National Anthem. **P 8**

Number of SC judges to rise from 34 to 38

New Delhi: The Cabinet on Tuesday approved a proposal to raise the sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court from the current 33 to 37, excluding the Chief Justice of India. With this, the effective strength of the apex court, including CJI, will rise from 34 to 38, **reports Dipak Dash.**

I&B minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that more than 92,000 cases are pending before the SC and the increase in the number of judges will help speed up justice. The judge strength of the apex court was last increased from 30 to 33 (excluding the Chief Justice of India) by amending the original Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019. **TOI** has learnt that the SC had sought 10 more judges to take the total strength to 43, excluding the CJI.

▶**Expansion cost, P8**

3-way tussle within Cong for Kerala CM post

T'puram: Election won. Succession unsettled. Congress brass moved into overdrive Tuesday to pick Kerala's next CM, with intense lobbying breaking out across factions after the party-led UDF's emphatic victory, **reports Rajiv G.** The decision rests with LS opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, but consultations could stretch up to a week, according to sources.

Three names anchor the contest. Leader of opposition VD Satheesan, who steered UDF through five years in the wilderness to a landslide, is seen as frontrunner. AICC general secretary KC Venugopal, a Rahul aide, is mobilising support. Ramesh Chennithala is the third choice.

▶**Hunt on, P 10**

Vijay stakes claim, Cong offers conditional support

Chennai: Falling at least 10 seats short of the simple majority mark in the 234-member TN assembly to form govt, TVK president C Joseph Vijay has reached out to multiple parties, including allies of both DMK and AIADMK. Congress has sent positive signals to TVK, which on Tuesday staked claim to form the govt, **reports Julie Mariappan**.

TVK's tally of 108 seats will drop to 107 after Vijay resigns the Trichy East seat on Wednesday. Then, in the 233-member assembly, he needs the support of 117 MLAs. Sources said TVK intermediaries have reached out to VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan and PMK leader Anbumani Ramadoss, besides Congress, which has five seats. VCK has two seats and PMK four.

"TNCC will take a final decision on Vijay's request," Congress general secretary KC Venugopal said in Delhi. On Tuesday night, a majority of former PCC presidents, MLAs and MPs said Congress should back TVK provided Vijay didn't induct "communal forces of NDA" into the pact.

▶**Huddles & hurdles, P 10**

Ex-DMK minister loses race by 1 vote

One vote decided it. TVK's R Seenivasa Sethupathy unseated DMK minister KR Periyakaruppan in Sivaganga district's Tirupattur assembly constituency by the slimmest margin possible — 83,375 to 83,374. With a one-vote margin, 306 rejected postal ballots were re-verified under EC rules. **P 17**

Trump hails PM for 'historic, decisive win'

Washington: US President Donald Trump has congratulated PM Modi on his "historic" election victory, a White House spokesman said Tuesday, in an apparent take on the recent round of assembly polls that were headlined by BJP's big win in West Bengal.

White House spokesman Kush Desai spoke of Trump's warm sentiments for Modi, noting that the US president in their phone call last month expressed his admiration for Modi and "how lucky India is to have him as its leader."

"The President congratulates PM Modi on this recent, historic, and decisive election victory," Desai said. On Monday, BJP ended the 15-year stint of Mamata Banerjee. TNN

'Targeting civilians, infra unacceptable': PM slams drone attacks on UAE

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi strongly condemned the drone attacks on Fujairah in the UAE, which resulted in injuries to three Indian nationals, saying targeting civilians and infrastructure is unacceptable.

Like in his past condemnation of attacks on the UAE and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Modi didn't name Iran, but said India stood in firm solidarity with the UAE and reiterated support for the peaceful resolution of all issues through dialogue and diplomacy.

On X, Modi also said ensuring safe and unimpeded navigation through the Strait of Hormuz is vital for enduring regional peace, stability and global energy security.

Modi will visit the UAE, a key strategic partner in the Gulf, on his way to Europe this month for a quick layover during which he will meet President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Both external affairs minister S Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval have visited the UAE since the US-Iran ceasefire was announced.

▶**End hostilities, P 14**

'Do the smart thing', Trump tells Iran

US President Trump urged Iran Tuesday to "do the smart thing" and make a deal, saying "we don't want to go in and kill people". Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian said US wants Iran to surrender to its unilateral demands, which is impossible. **P 19**

Govt to speed up FDI nod for 40 items in 6 sectors

Govt has notified 40 items across six sectors, including rare earth permanent magnets, capital goods, polysilicon wafers, advanced battery components and electronic capital goods and components for expedited FDI clearance for proposals coming from countries that share land border with India, a move aimed at fast-tracking approvals from Chinese companies in select segments.

Besides, the department for promotion of industry and internal trade has also sought to fix timelines, including for security nod, so that foreign investment proposals are normally approved within 12 weeks as part of a move to step up inflows, amid a weak rupee and low levels of new FDI inflows. In any case, most of the FDI cases are cleared under the automatic route, which means no govt approvals are needed. **P 20**

Karnataka asks pvt engg colleges to surrender unfilled seats early

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Bengaluru: The Karnataka higher education department has advised private engineering colleges in the state to surrender unfilled seats before the first round of counselling so that students stand a better chance to pick course and college of choice.

Last year, colleges surrendered 6,668 seats, mostly from underwhelming courses such as civil, mechanical, electronics and communication. The higher education department said colleges can decide on the quantum of seats to be surrendered based on previous years' seat allocation trend.

Usually, private engineering colleges surrender seats to Karnataka Examinations Authority when they realise that there are no more takers during several rounds of admission counselling. KEA aims to fill these seats at a lower fee than what colleges would charge under management quota. This process takes place towards the end of counselling, leaving little time for students to make a choice.

"During a meeting with private engineering colleges, we have asked them to surrender seats ahead of the counselling, going by their previous years' trends," said higher education minister M C Sudhakar.

▶**Continued on page 2**

15K+ SEATS REMAINED VACANT IN '25

- **Govt receives 10 applications** so far this yr to start engg colleges
- During the **past five years, 25 colleges** have started functioning
- **In 2025, 15,353 seats remained vacant** in the state; colleges had surrendered 6,668 seats
- The govt is **likely to issue an order capping** the number of computer science and allied programme seats in new colleges

Power bank blast on IndiGo flight, 6 hurt in evacuation

A power bank exploded inside an IndiGo flight from Hyderabad just after it landed in Chandigarh, triggering an emergency evacuation in which six passengers were injured. The explosion didn't occur mid-air, said officials.

According to airport officials, IndiGo flight 6E108 from Hyderabad carrying 199 passengers landed in Chandigarh at 3.29pm. The aircraft was parked in the apron area for passengers to get off when the power bank exploded inside a passenger's bag. The crew used fire extinguishers to put out the fire and released emergency chutes to help passengers escape.

▶**Injured in hosp, P 14**

Original Sabarimala PIL should've been binned: SC

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New Delhi: A nine-judge Supreme Court bench led by CJI Surya Kant on Tuesday said the SC in 2006 should have outrightly "thrown in the dustbin' the original PIL that led to quashing of Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple custom restricting entry of women in the 10 to 50 age group.

'All India Young Lawyers Association', which filed the PIL in 2006 through its president Naushad Ali, narrated through senior advocate RP Gupta how a misconduct by the thantri of Ayyappa temple led to filing of the petition challenging the restriction.

The bench led by CJI Kant said SC at best could have ordered investigations into the misconduct to bring the guilty to the book. But based on newspaper reports, the PIL could not have been entertained, it said.

▶**'Are you chief priest', P 14**

▶**Bail must be considered if trial delayed: SC, P 8**

IN THE COURTS

- Does **woman's religion get extinguished on marriage**, asks Parsi woman in SC | **P 14**
- Delhi HC allows jailed Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid **to spend 12 hours with ailing father**
- Constitutional functionaries **entitled to 'honourable'** tag, but not a civil servant | **P 11**
- Court dissolves marriage after **Muslim woman returns mehr**, sends divorce deed | **P 14**

After Kejriwal's judge boycott, HC to pick amici

Delhi HC has said it would appoint senior advocates as amici curiae to represent former CM Arvind Kejriwal and two other senior AAP members, who have chosen not to appear before Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma. Justice Sharma is hearing the CBI's appeal against discharge of Kejriwal and 22 others by a trial court in the liquor policy case in Feb. She had earlier refused to recuse herself after Kejriwal alleged a conflict of interest and apprehension of bias.

A key reason cited for appointing amici is the SC's mandate that criminal revisions or appeals cannot be disposed of without hearing the parties, even if they choose to remain absent. TNN

Their poles offloaded, 3 TN athletes forced to change train

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Chennai: Tamil Nadu pole vaulters, returning from a national event in Odisha, suffered the pain and humiliation of their poles being dropped from the train by Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel at Rajahmundry, Andhra, who cut off the ropes that secured the equipment to the windows outside the train compartment. The poles, each costing Rs 1 lakh, fell on the tracks and the athletes had to pull the chain to stop the train and retrieve them.

Just a week ago, both the men's and women's national marks were bettered at the Indian Indoor Open Combined Events and Pole Vault Competition in Bhubaneswar.

Earlier this year, current pole vault national-record holder Kuldeep Kumar and the then holder, Dev Meena, were deboarded at Panvel, Maharashtra, by the ticket examiner, detained and fined for carrying their poles in the train.

The poles were tied to the train windows. One of the pole vaulters, Kavinraja, won gold in the U-20 category at an event in Bhubaneswar

▶**Official cut ropes, P 24**

Vote fraud case against K'taka BJP MLA on hold

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A day after BJP's DN Jeevaraj was declared a winner from Sringeri constituency in a fraught legal battle, Karnataka high court on Tuesday stayed proceedings against him in an alleged ballot-tampering case.

Adjourning the hearing to May 7, vacation judge Justice V Srishananda said the FIR filed in the case looked to be "politically influenced" as it also questioned the process of votes counted in 2023.

The judge noted that police should not act under political pressure. "This is visible and (it's) nothing but an abuse of the process. What is going on? What is this process of making deputy commissioner, agent and all as an accused party? If this is the situation, no officer will work properly," he said.

'ABUSE OF PROCESS'

- Court says FIR filed in case seems **"politically influenced"**
- Asks why **poll petition wasn't filed over** alleged deviations
- Warns such cases will **stop officers from working properly**

THE CASE: A criminal case was filed against Sringeri BJP MLA Jeevaraj based on a complaint by Cong poll agent that postal ballots were tampered with

▶**Plaint by Cong agent, P 6**

Cattle class: In Nuh, this school by day turns cowshed at night

Records show Govt Primary School Kubda Bas in Nuh's Ferozepur Jhirka block is fully functional. It is, but inside a cattle shed that 29 boys and 33 girls — from Balvatika to Class III — pack into, **reports Anjali Singh.**

When the children leave, cows and buffaloes take their place, and bags of fodder are carried in. The animals are moved out, and the shed cleaned, in the morning before children come for classes. The stench, however, lingers. Kubda Bas isn't an isolated case — it is one of at least 19 schools in this Haryana district adjoining Gurgaon and a short drive from Delhi that run without a building. At Govt Primary School Kalu Bas, also in Ferozepur Jhirka, 45 boys and 50 girls have their classes in a field, surrounded by cows and goats. Blackboards are tied to tree trunks. This, ironically, is the more comfortable part of the year. In monsoon, the field turns muddy.

At Govt Primary School Kalu Bas, also in Ferozepur Jhirka, 45 boys and 50 girls have their classes in a field, surrounded by cows and goats

▶**Situation painful, P 14**

Bangalore Times

Memory & muse at the Met

I was disappointed about losing out on The Office: Adam

The art of wearing stories

Buzzstop

SC SEEKS REPORT ON DARSHAN'S 'DENIED BASIC AMENITIES' PLEA

It ends for them: Blake Lively & Justin Baldoni settle their legal battle

Background

'The movie is a source of pride for all of us'

Drop 3-language formula to prevent children from failing in Kannada: KDA

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Bengaluru: The number of students who failed in Kannada in SSLC exams rose by 2-3% between 2016 and 2025, notes a report by Kannada Development Authority (KDA) titled, 'Why do Karnataka children fail in Kannada?'.

SSLC EXAM REPORT

The report suggests that the current three-language formula should be dropped and a bilingual policy adopted to strengthen Kannada learning and reduce the burden of an unnecessary third language. As per the report, recently submitted to the department of school education and literacy, the number of students failing in Kannada as first language rose from 9.6% to 12.9% in 10 years. In Kannada as second language, the number of failed students increased by 3.3% to become 11.7% in 2025. In Kannada as third language, the pass percentage decreased from 88.1% to 87.8% in this period.

The report observes that the number of students who opted for Kannada as third language dropped by 68% in 10 years, while those who chose it as second language increased by 40%. There was a decline in students choosing Kannada as first language, too, from 83.1% in 2016 to 81% in 2025. During this period, the number of students choosing English as first language increased from 10.6% to 14.6%. "The paradox that Kannada as a first language is performing worse than non-native languages suggests fundamental problems in pedagogy, curriculum design or assessment methods that require urgent attention," the report notes.

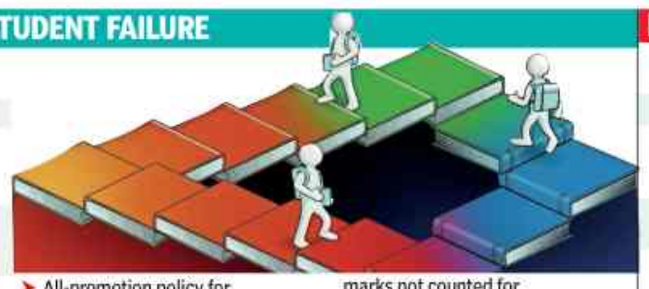
The team that prepared the report consisted of VP Niranjanaradhya, educationist, along with Kannada teachers from across the state.

The failing percentage also varied with social categories and districts. Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and category 2B students were the worst performers. Coastal and Malnad regions significantly outperformed districts in north Karnataka, pointing to complex interactions of social and economic factors, language teaching, infrastructure quality, language teacher shortages, and historical educational development.

The report suggests that Kannada textbooks put emphasis on language development than on cramming content. "There should be activities that complement language skills of children. Textbooks should have simple stories, poetry, dialogue writing and reading, and self-expression. The pictures should be more attractive. Attractive learning materials should be available in the classroom. Language learning skills should be given priority in assessment and not the content. When such opportunities are provided from the primary stage, children cannot fail in Kannada."

It recommends incentives for students who excel in Kannada, such as scholarships, priority in selection for next level of education and preference in govt jobs.

REASONS CITED FOR STUDENT FAILURE



- Lack of habit of reading and writing among children
- Social media replacing books
- Migrant students' attitude that Kannada not necessary if they return to their states
- Migrant students attending school only for 2-3 months, with absence for long periods
- Shortage of teachers in primary schools and unscientific teaching methods
- Lack of school-conducive environment where teachers can focus on their job
- All-promotion policy for students regardless of their ability to read and write
- Excessive English obsession and apathy towards Kannada
- Lack of seriousness as Kannada marks not counted for competitive courses
- Lack of uniform curriculum in schools across state
- Giving priority to content over language skills

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BETTER RESULTS

- Creating separate language room for learning
- Avoiding rote learning
- Creating interesting activities for language learning, providing language learning tools
- Question papers should test language skills, not content
- Textbooks should be prepared by language experts and teachers
- Textbooks should not change with change of govt
- Required number of language teachers should be appointed at each level
- Periods allotted for language learning should not be allocated to any other subjects
- Raising awareness about importance of learning Kannada at parent meetings
- Cultivating love for reading Kannada
- Professional training for Kannada teachers
- Instead of emphasis on exams, continuous and comprehensive assessment at school level

Couple held for stealing from house of boss

Bengaluru: A couple employed as a driver and a domestic help has been arrested for allegedly stealing over 275 grams of gold, 800 grams of silver ornaments and Rs 25 lakh in cash from their employer's house.

Police said Manikanta (26) and his wife Aishwarya (21) had been working for businessman and builder G Mallikarjun in Katriguppe, Banashankari, for five months. Manikanta lived in an outhouse on the property with his family, while Aishwarya and his mother worked as maids with access to all rooms. Aishwarya noticed that gold and cash were stored in a bedroom locker, with the key kept in a nearby cupboard. Mallikarjun had placed Rs 25 lakh in the locker in March, but found the cash and some ornaments missing on April 12.

Suspicion fell on the staff, and police arrested the couple on April 20. During questioning, they confessed, sources said. TNN

15k seats were vacant last yr

▶ Continued from page 1

There are a lot of seats going vacant, and engineering colleges are trying their best to fill up seats. At the same time, new engineering colleges are applying, which is surprising," he said.

This year, govt has received 10 applications — six from Bengaluru, and one each from Belagavi, Vijayapura, Doddaballapur, and Hubballi — to start engineering colleges. This is the highest number of applications received in five years. As per data from the higher education department, 25 colleges started operating in the past five years. In 2022-23, four new colleges applied, followed by three in 2023-24 and 2024-25, and five in 2025-26. Last year, 15,353 seats remained vacant in the state.

This year, it is likely that state govt will issue a govt order capping the number of computer science and allied programme seats in the new colleges, in line with recommendations made by Prof S Sadagopan committee report.

Live Wires, Deadly Lapses
Danger hangs over streets

GBA Urged To Act As Unattended Cables Pose Threat In Rain, Night

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Bengaluru: A dangling cable from a low tree branch on a footpath could well be the noose you were not prepared for. So are TV cables hanging loose across buildings or poles on narrow streets; worse are black wires on the road left unattended. These could turn fatal in squally weather and heavy-rain evenings when visibility is the first casualty.

Last week's heavy rain exposed Bengaluru's civic vulnerabilities and how no rules are followed in drawing cables for many utilities and services. The rain left behind a trail of fallen trees, snapped cables, and exposed wires across busy streets. "Watch your step" is the guiding principle for pedestrians and motorists.

According to officials of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), some 300 trees and 600 branches fell across the city during the downpour last week, pulling down with them a web of telecom cables, cable TV lines, internet cables and, in some cases, electric wires. Two people died of electrocution last week, underscoring the enormity of the situation. Residents say the issue highlights a larger infrastructure gap: despite repeated concerns for years, cables in many parts of Bengaluru continue to be strung overhead instead of being routed underground.

"The footpaths are veritable death traps — wires dangle dangerously from trees or are snapped or are lying unattended on the ground. How do we know which wire is safe?" asked Sharmistha K, a resident of Langford Road in central Bengaluru.

Even retail hubs of SJP Road and Avenue Road are not spared. These packed commercial stretches are now riddled with wires, making it difficult to distinguish between safe cables and live electric lines.

TOI observed that in South End Circle, Jayanagar, a biker suddenly saw a wire falling on his vehicle. He panicked, but gathered himself and moved on. While he was relieved nothing dangerous happened, this is the danger motorists are up against.

Traders and shoppers say the situation is both chaotic and perilous. "Cables laid by telecom companies and cable TV operators are unregulated and installed in a haphazard manner," said Rahul Goyal, vice-president of Karnataka Hardware & Allied Merchants' Association. "Before monsoon, the forest department, along with civic authorities, should identify weak or dead branches and prune them. Otherwise, when branches fall, they pull down cables, creating a serious risk for both pedestrians and motorists. If such branches fall on electric poles, it can be disastrous."

Arun Jain, another trader, said, "No one seeks permission before laying these cables. Many are defunct but continue to hang."

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR IN RAIN

1. Post rain, look for unattended cables on footpaths and roads
2. Be mindful of half-cut or exposed wires
3. Avoid leaning on walls or trees with bundled wires
4. If someone is in contact with electric wire, do not touch them. Inform Bescom immediately
5. Two-wheeler riders should stay alert for dangling or loose cables on roads

Pics: Syed Asif

TROUBLE OVERHEAD Fallen trees & unregulated overhead cables after heavy rain have turned streets into danger zones in Bengaluru

"I nearly got hit by a hanging cable box recently. After rain, I avoid stepping out. One has to constantly watch out for broken footpaths, exposed cables and open drains. This has been the reality for years, with no improvement
Kesari Prasad | MAYA INDRAPRASTH, JP NAGAR

"When a branch falls, it brings down bundled cables onto the road and properties. In the dark, people struggle to navigate. These cables were supposed to go underground
Raghu Rajagopal | PRESIDENT OF KORAMANGALA 4TH BLOCK RWA

"All AMC (annual maintenance contractors) teams have been engaged by the electrical department of five city corporations to resolve the streetlight issue. Similarly, Bescom has taken action. To monitor the issues that arise from rain, teams — including all parastatal agencies such as GBA, traffic police, BWSSB, fire, Bescom — have been formed
Maheshwar Rao | GBA CHIEF COMMISSIONER GBA

Lokayukta cracks whip as underpass floods

Bengaluru: Addressing persistent civic failure, Karnataka Lokayukta Justice BS Patil issued a detailed order aimed at finding a permanent solution to the chronic waterlogging at KR Circle underpass. This action follows an inspection of the site on April 30, after heavy rain once again left the underpass submerged.

KR Circle underpass gained notoriety in May 2023 when Bhanurekha, a 23-year-old techie, drowned after her car became trapped in neck-deep water.

The April 29 rain saw the underpass get flooded once more, highlighting the lack of effective remedial measures. During the ongoing investigation, engineers from the storm-water drain and underpass divisions allegedly blamed one another for the matter.

Justice Patil expressed strong displeasure over this administrative deadlock and the continued risk to public safety.

"Justice Patil emphasised that the right to well-maintained roads is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution. The next formal inquiry session is scheduled for May 20, where these high-level officials are expected to present concrete plans to prevent further tragedies," a senior Lokayukta official told **TOI**.

To break the cycle of "maladministration", the Lokayukta has expanded the scope of the case by making several top-tier officials party to the inquiry. These include the chief secretary of Karnataka, additional chief secretary for urban development, commissioner of Bengaluru Central City Corporation, and key officials from Greater Bengaluru Authority. TNN

Hotter summer this year boosts sales of chilled beer

Vindhya.Pabolu
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Bengaluru: High temperatures this summer have brought back the fizz in beer sales after a dismal 2025 that saw a prolonged slump from April to Dec. Traders attributed the increase in beer sales to summer heat, but added that policy changes and pricing fluctuations continue to keep the business in doldrums.

New year 2026 began on a bright note with a 10.6% increase in sales in Jan compared to the same month last year. According to the excise department, the month saw sales of 27.9 lakh carton boxes. Feb sales dipped by 4.6% over the same period of the previous year, but March again revived the segment with an increase of 14%, while April recorded the highest growth at 21%.

Sampath Kumar, vice-president of Karnataka Wine Merchants' Association, said: "With IPL matches happening, consumers prefer beer to hard liquor, especially in the heat. While summer usually brings expectations of better sales, frequent policy changes and pricing fluctuations have caused uncertainty. There are also concerns about new products entering the market under misleading categories, which could impact consumption patterns, especially among younger consumers."

A pub owner said, "Beer sales have slightly increased due to high temperatures and summer break for some college students. This has brought a sense of relief, but with multiple revisions over the past year, this slight uptick in sales cannot offset the losses we have suffered."

New trend: Low-alcohol flavoured brews

Vinay Chandrashekar, founder of Long Boat Brewing Co, Marathahalli, said: "Seasonal beers like mango, guava and watermelon remain popular in summer, but we are seeing a growing trend among Gen Z consumers towards low-alcohol brews of around 2-3%, such as Berliner Weisse styles, which are light, refreshing and can be customised with flavours like watermelon or cucumber. Despite the seasonal boost, sales have dipped from about 10,000-11,000 litres a month during peak summers to 6,000-7,000 litres, with only an additional sale of 500-1,000 litres during peak months. A key reason is rising competition — earlier there were just 2-3 breweries within an 8km radius, but now there are 4-5 within 6km."

Fino Frangline, co-founder, Gladia Brewery & Kitchen, Sarjapur, said: "In our outlets, beer consumption has been slightly higher, and we are ordering 5-10% more stock. Like many others, we introduce fruit beers in summer — particularly mango beer — which sells extremely well. While different brands experiment with flavours like raspberry or pineapple, mango continues to dominate and remains the most popular choice during summer."

Officials attribute the surge in beer sales to rising temperatures and anticipated tax changes. Venkatesh Kumar R, commissioner, excise department, told **TOI**: "The rise is driven by summer demand and pre-emptive stocking. The final draft on taxation and an MRP revision notification issued about 10 days ago also led manufacturers to increase lifting in anticipation of price changes, ensuring adequate stock and avoiding market shortages. Manufacturers typically take time to adjust to new taxes, so April lifting has been higher than last year."

METRO WRAP

KSRTC bus gutted, passengers safe

A KSRTC Pallakki bus, plying on the Bengaluru-Gadag route, was gutted after it caught fire near Devaragudda in Ranebennur taluk of Haveri district Tuesday morning (**in pic**). All 17 passengers escaped unhurt, thanks to timely action of the crew. The bus, attached to Bengaluru central division's depot-1, developed a snag and the driver and conductor noticed smoke emanating from one of the tyres. The driver stopped the bus and ensured all passengers alighted safely. Moments later, the tyre burst, triggering a fire that spread rapidly through the bus.

Purple Line services disrupted due to glitch

Services of Namma Metro's Purple Line were disrupted following a glitch in a train, causing inconvenience to passengers Monday evening. Commuters said all trains stopped at several stations for up to 10 minutes, with some alleging they were stranded inside coaches without clear communication about the delay. BMRCL said the issue occurred at Hoodi station around 5pm. "The train moved at reduced speed to Byappanahalli, causing a delay of about three minutes for subsequent services," it said.

New palliative care unit at KC General Hospital

A palliative care unit at KC General Hospital, in collaboration with Saranam India, was inaugurated Tuesday by health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao. The unit in Malleswaram is designed for patients in terminal stages of illnesses, those with severe severe pain, breathing problems, neurological conditions, kidney failure, cancer, mental stress and other complications.

For safer runways: AI takes over at key KIA zones to minimise collision risk

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a major tech upgrade, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has introduced Smart Airside Safety System to reduce risks in the airport's most sensitive operational zones. The newly deployed system focuses on Cross Service Roads (CSRs), critical intersections where taxiing aircraft intersect with ground vehicle movement. These zones have so far relied on manual or semi-manual signalling, which leaves room for human error and is risky in high-traffic and low-visibility conditions.

BIAL's solution replaces that dependency with a real-time, AI-driven framework. Using computer vision and intelligent automation, cameras installed at CSR intersections continuously monitor activity, detect vehicle movement, and assess potential right-of-way conflicts. The system can automatically trigger inset warning lights to prioritise aircraft movement and reset signals once the path is clear, a BIAL release stated.

This shift is designed to create a "data-driven separation layer" between aircraft and vehicles, significantly reducing the risk of runway incursions or near-miss situations. The move comes amid growing global attention on airside safety lapses. In recent years, several airports worldwide have reported incidents involving unauthorised vehicle crossings, miscommunication between ground staff and cockpit crews, and near-collisions during taxiing in low-visibility conditions.

In the recent crash involving an Air Canada Express flight and a firefighting truck at New York's LaGuardia Airport on March 22, both pilots were killed and 40 persons were injured. On Sunday last week, a United Airlines flight hit a truck at Newark Airport in the US. India, too, has seen aviation regulators flagging procedural lapses and the need for tighter coordination in busy airports.

Airport only gets busier

While Bengaluru has maintained a strong safety record, the rapid increase in passenger traffic and aircraft movement has added pressure on ground operations. The city's airport handles an average of 769 aircraft traffic movements a day.

Apart from reducing risk, the system is expected to improve turnaround times by minimising unnecessary stoppages for aircraft and service vehicles. Over time, the data collected will also help in predictive analytics: anticipating congestion, identifying recurring violations, and refining protocols.

WHAT CHANGES ON THE GROUND?

- AI cameras interpret real-time movement at intersections
- Automated signals ensure aircraft always get right-of-way
- Non-compliant vehicle movement instantly flagged
- Every event digitally logged for audit, compliance and analysis
- Centralised dashboard allows airport operators to monitor CSR activity, identify patterns and optimise traffic flow during peak hours

Sweet & staggered: B'luru to host not one but many mango melas this year

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The annual mango and jackfruit mela organised by Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Ltd (KSMDMCL) will be held across different parts of Bengaluru this year in a staggered manner, depending on when the fruits arrive.

The first mela will be held at Cubbon Park in the heart of the city and will be inaugurated Friday.

A more flexible approach to the official event has been taken because weather vagaries have led to harvesting season varying across regions. While mangoes from Ramanagara, Kanakapura and Uttara Karnataka are ready for harvest, fruits in the major growing hub of Kolar are yet to ripen. A separate mela for the Kolar produce will be organised at Lalbagh Botanical Garden once the fruits are ready.

"Due to diseases like thrips and weather factors, the harvest season in Kolar and Chikkaballapur has been affected significantly. The recent hailstorms also damaged trees, with 8-10% of fruits falling prematurely in Srinivasapura taluk in Kolar," explained BC Muddugangadhar, chairman of KSMDMCL. He added that if they had waited for Kolar's produce to ripen, mangoes from other belts would have perished by then.

The board is also planning to organise mini-melas in playgrounds across Bengaluru, including at Sahakarnagar, Electronics City, Whitefield and National College Grounds in Basavanagudi. Discussions are underway with Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to finalise venues and dates. "Our goal is to ensure that mango growers get good rates for their produce and that customers get good quality mangoes — naturally ripened without carbides — in their own neighbourhoods," Muddugangadhar said. He also mentioned that many farmers have now set up their own websites and WhatsApp-based stores to directly sell their fruits to customers.

The mela at Cubbon Park, which will run till May 17, will have 50 stalls for mangoes, and seven for jackfruits.

File photo

COMING SOON: The first mela will open on May 8 at Cubbon Park

GI-tagged Kari Ishad on offer

Kari Ishad variety of mango from Uttara Kannada district, which became popular after obtaining GI tag in 2023, will be available at the 10-day mango mela in Cubbon Park. Other varieties like Badami, Mallika, Sendhura and Rasapuri will be sold at the fair, along with jackfruit varieties like Rudrakshi, Shivarathri, Ekadashi and Toobagere Lalbagh Madhura. Raw mangoes for pickles will be on sale.

This bus is in no hurry to reach any destination

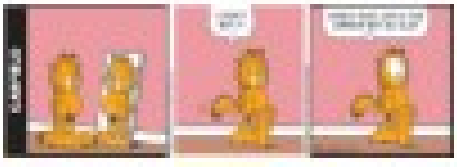
The architects of predictive chaos

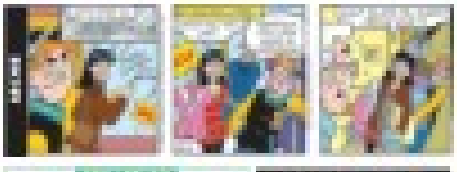
Why getting lost is the new luxury

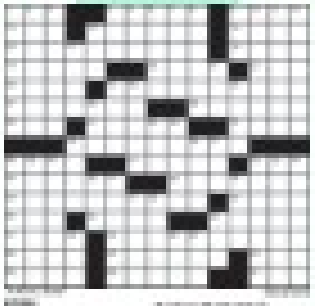
The biggest spectacle of them all

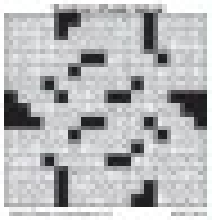
Sleeping beauties on the riverbank of Seoul shine light on sleep crisis

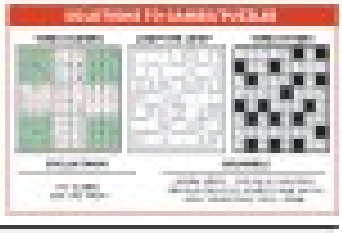
LEISURE











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INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER OF BAGMANE PRIME OFFICE REIT IN RELIANCE UPON REGULATION 14(1) OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS) REGULATIONS, 2014, AS AMENDED (THE "REIT REGULATIONS")

(Please scan this QR code to view the Offer Document)

BAGMANE REIT

BAGMANE PRIME OFFICE REIT

(Registered in the Republic of India as a contributory, determinate and irrevocable trust on May 30, 2025 at Bengaluru, Karnataka, India under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 and as a real estate investment trust on July 15, 2025 at Mumbai, Maharashtra, India under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Real Estate Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014, as amended having registration number IN/REIT/25-26/0007)

Principal Place of Business: 5th Floor, 'B' Block, Laurel Building, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bagmane Tech Park, Bengaluru - 560 093, Karnataka, India, **Tel:** +91 80 4032 9901; **Fax:** N.A.; **Compliance Officer:** Venkatesh Ranganath P; **E-mail:** reitcompliance@bagmanereit.com; **Website:** www.bagmanereit.com

TRUSTEE	SPONSOR	MANAGER
AXIS TRUSTEE	BAGMANE	BAGMANE REIT
Axis Trustee Services Limited	**Bagmane Realty and Infrastructure LLP**	**Bagmane Realty Investment Manager Private Limited**

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER OF UP TO [●] UNITS OF BAGMANE PRIME OFFICE REIT ("BAGMANE REIT") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●] PER UNIT AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 34,050 MILLION, CONSISTING OF A FRESH ISSUANCE OF UP TO [●] UNITS BY THE BAGMANE REIT AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 23,900 MILLION ("FRESH ISSUE") AND AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO [●] UNITS BY THE SELLING UNITHOLDER AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 10,150 MILLION ("OFFER FOR SALE" AND TOGETHER WITH THE FRESH ISSUE, THE "OFFER").

• Institutional Investor Portion : Not more than 75% of the Offer (excluding Strategic Investor Portion) • Non-Institutional Investor Portion : Not less than 25% of the Offer (excluding Strategic Investor Portion)
• Strategic Investor Portion : Not less than 5% of the Offer and not more than 25% of the Offer

Price Band: ₹95 to ₹100 per Unit

Bids can be made for a minimum of 150 Units and in multiples of 150 Units thereafter by Bidders (other than Anchor Investors and Strategic Investors)

Risks to Investors:

- Bagmane REIT does not provide any assurance or guarantee of any distributions to the Unitholders. It may not be able to make distributions to Unitholders in the manner described in the Offer Document or at all, and the level of distributions may decrease.
- The Bagmane REIT has a limited operating history and may not be able to operate its business successfully or generate sufficient cash flows to make or sustain distributions.
- The Special Purpose Combined Financial Statements are prepared for the Offer Document and may not necessarily be representative of the Bagmane REIT's actual consolidated financial position, results of operation and cash flows for such periods.

Credit Rating: As on December 26, 2025, the Bagmane REIT has been assigned an issuer rating of Provisional CARE AAA; Stable by CARE Ratings Limited and as on December 29, 2025, the Bagmane REIT has been assigned an issuer rating of Provisional [ICRA] AAA (Stable) by ICRA Limited

BID/OFFER PROGRAM#	BID/OFFER OPEN
	BID/OFFER CLOSES ON: THURSDAY, MAY 07, 2026

#The Offer also includes participation by Strategic Investors in accordance with the SEBI REIT Master Circular.

ASBA# Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!! | #Applications supported by blocked amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. **Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.**

UPI UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE | For individual Non-Institutional Investors using UPI Mechanism, the Stock Exchanges shall share the bid details (including UPI ID) with Sponsor Bank on a continuous basis to enable the Sponsor Bank to initiate UPI Mandate Request to individual Non-Institutional Investors for blocking of funds. The Sponsor Bank shall initiate request for blocking of funds through NPCI to individual Non-Institutional Investors, who shall accept the UPI Mandate Request for blocking of funds on their respective mobile applications associated with UPI ID linked bank account.

In case of any revision to the Price Band, the Bid/ Offer Period will be extended by at least one Working Day, and in case of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, for reasons to be recorded in writing, the Bid/ Offer Period will be extended for a minimum period of three Working Days, subject to the total Bid/ Offer Period not exceeding 30 days, provided that there shall not be more than two revisions to the Price Band during the Bid/ Offer Period. The revised Price Band and Bid/ Offer Period will be widely disseminated by notification to the Designated Intermediaries and Stock Exchanges, and also by indicating the change on the websites of the Bagmane REIT, the BRLMs, the Sponsor, the Manager and the Stock Exchanges and at the terminals of the members of the Syndicate.

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process and in compliance with the REIT Regulations and the SEBI Master Circular, wherein not more than 75% of the Offer (excluding Strategic Investor Portion) shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Institutional Investors, provided that the Manager may, in consultation with the Selling Unitholder and BRLMs, allocate up to 60% of the Institutional Investor Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis in accordance with the REIT Regulations and the SEBI REIT Master Circular. Further, not less than 25% of the Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Investors (excluding the Strategic Investor Portion), in accordance with the REIT Regulations and the SEBI REIT Master Circular, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. The Manager, in consultation with the Selling Unitholder and BRLMs, may retain oversubscription in the Offer in accordance with the REIT Regulations and the SEBI Master Circular. All Bidders, other than Anchor Investors and Strategic Investors, are required to utilise the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("**ASBA**") process by providing details of their respective ASBA accounts and UPI ID (in case of individual Non-Institutional Investors using the UPI Mechanism. Bidding with a Bid Amount of ₹ 500,000 or less), in which case the corresponding Bid Amounts will be blocked by the Self Certified Syndicate Banks ("**SCSBs**") or under the UPI Mechanism, as applicable, to participate in this Offer. For details, see *"Offer Procedure"* on page 417 of the Offer Document.

Bidders should note that on the basis of Bidders' PAN, DP ID , UPI ID (for individual Non-Institutional Investors Bidding for a Bid Amount of ₹0.50 million or less using the UPI Mechanism) and Client ID provided by them in the Bid cum Application Form and as entered into the electronic bidding system of the Stock Exchanges by the Designated Intermediaries as the case may be, the Registrar will obtain from the Depository the demographic details including the Bidders' address, occupation and bank account details including the nine-digit magnetic ink character recognition ("MICR") code as appearing on the cheque leaf ("Demographic Details"), from the Depository. The Demographic Details will be used for giving refunds and allocation advice (including through physical refund warrants, direct credit, NACH, NEFT and RTGS) to the Bidders. Hence, Bidders are advised to immediately update their bank account details, PAN and Demographic Details as appearing on the records of the Depository Participant and ensure that they are true and correct. Failure to do so could result in delays in dispatch/credit of refunds to Bidders at the Bidders sole risk and none of the BRLMs, the Registrar, the Escrow Collection Banks, the Sponsor Bank, the SCSBs, the Manager or the Trustee will have any responsibility or undertake any liability for this. Accordingly, Bidders should carefully fill in their depository account details in the Bid cum Application Form.

By signing the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder is deemed to have authorized the Depositories to provide to the Registrar, on request, the required Demographic Details as available in their records.

Bids with no corresponding record available with the Depositories matching the three parameters (namely, Bidders PAN (in case of joint Bids, PAN of First Bidder), the DP ID, the UPI ID (for individual Non-Institutional Investors Bidding for a Bid Amount of ₹500,000 or less using the UPI Mechanism) and Client ID), are liable to be rejected.

Listing: The Units are proposed to be listed on BSE Limited ("**BSE**") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("**NSE**", together with BSE, the "**Stock Exchanges**"). The Bagmane REIT has received in-principle approvals from the Stock Exchanges for listing of our Units pursuant to letters each dated February 13, 2026. NSE is the Designated Stock Exchange for the Offer.

SEBI Disclaimer : It is to be distinctly understood that submission of the Draft Offer Document, the Offer Document or the Final Offer Document to SEBI should not in any way be deemed or construed that the same has been cleared or approved by SEBI. SEBI does not take any responsibility either for the financial soundness of any scheme or the project for which the Offer is proposed to be made or for the correctness of the statements made or opinions expressed in the Draft Offer Document, the Offer Document and the Final Offer Document.

NSE Disclaimer (Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to the Offer Document for the full text of the *"Disclaimer clause of NSE"* on page 9 of the Offer Document.

BSE Disclaimer: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE Limited should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by BSE Limited nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to the Offer Document for the full text of the *"Disclaimer clause of the BSE"* on page 9 of the Offer Document.

General Risks: Investments in the Units involves a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in the Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their entire investment. Prospective investors are advised to read the *"Risk Factors"* on page 48 of the Offer Document carefully before taking an investment decision with respect to the Offer. For taking such investment decision, prospective investors must rely on their own examination of the Bagmane REIT and the Offer including the risks involved. Each prospective investor is advised to consult its own advisors in respect of the consequences of an investment in the Units being issued pursuant to the Offer Document. The Draft Offer Document and the Offer Document have been prepared by the Manager solely for providing information in connection with the Offer and a copy of the Offer Document has been delivered to Securities and Exchange Board of India ("**SEBI**") and the Stock Exchanges. However, the Units have not been recommended or approved by SEBI and the Stock Exchanges and nor do SEBI or the Stock Exchanges guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of any statements made, opinions expressed or reports contained herein and accordingly, admission of the Units to be allotted pursuant to the Offer for trading on the Stock Exchanges should not be taken as an indication of the merits of the Bagmane REIT or of the Units.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS

JM Financial	kotak Investment Banking	AXIS CAPITAL	IIFL CAPITAL	SBICAPS	capital 360 ONE	HDFC BANK We understand your world
JM Financial Limited 7th Floor, Cynergy Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi Mumbai - 400 025 Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 6630 3030 **E-mail:** bagmane.reit@jmfl.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** grievance.ibd@jmfl.com **Website:** www.jmfl.com **Contact Person:** Prachee Dhuri **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000010361	**Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited** 1st Floor, 27 BKC, Plot No. 27, G Block Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East) Mumbai - 400 051 Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 4336 0000 **E-mail:** bagmane.reit@kotak.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** kmccredressal@kotak.com **Website:** https://investmentbank.kotak.com **Contact Person:** Ganesh Rane **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000008704	**Axis Capital Limited** Axis House, 1st Floor Pandurang Budhkar Marg Worli, Mumbai - 400 025 Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 4325 2183 **E-mail:** bagmanereit.ipo@axiscap.in **Investor Grievance e-mail:** complaints@axiscap.in **Website:** www.axiscapital.co.in **Contact Person:** Pratik Pednekar / Tosit Agarwal **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000012029	**IIFL Capital Services Limited** ***(Formerly known as IIFL Securities Limited)*** 24th Floor, One Lodha Place Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel Mumbai - 400 013 Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 4646 4728 **E-mail:** bagmanereit.ipo@iiflcap.com **Investor Grievance e-mail:** ig.ib@iiflcap.com **Website:** www.iiflcapital.com **Contact Person:** Yogesh Malpani / Pawan Kumar Jain **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000010940	**SBI Capital Markets Limited** 1501, 15th Floor, A&B Wing, Parinee Crescenzo Building, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 4006 9807 **E-mail:** bagmane.reit@sbicaps.com **Investor Grievance e-mail:** investor.relations@sbicaps.com **Website:** www.sbicaps.com **Contact Person:** Raghavendra Bhat / Aditya Deshpande **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000003531	**360 ONE WAM Limited** 360 ONE Centre, Kamala City Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400 013 Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 4031 7000 **Email:** bagmanegroup.ipo@360.one **Investor Grievance e-mail:** mbinvestorcomplaints@360.one **Website:** https://www.360.one **Contact Person:** Devesh Patkar **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000012801	**HDFC Bank Limited** Investment Banking Group Unit no. 701, 702 and 702-A, 7th floor Tower 2 and 3, One International Centre Senapati Bapat Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 013, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 3395 8233 **E-mail:** bagmane.reit@hdfcbank.com **Investor Grievance e-mail:** Investor.redressal@hdfcbank.com **Website:** www.hdfc.bank.in **Contact Person:** Gaurav Khandelwal / Souradeep Ghosh **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000011252

REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER	COMPLIANCE OFFICER
KFin Technologies Limited Selenium Tower B, Plot No. 31 & 32, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serilingampally, Hyderabad, Ranga Reddi - 500 032, Telangana, India **Tel:** +91 40 6716 2222/1800 309 4001, **E-mail:** bagmane.reit@kfintech.com, **Investor grievance e-mail:** einward.ris@kfintech.com **Website:** www.kfintech.com, **Contact Person:** M. Murali Krishna, **SEBI Registration No.:** INR000000221	**Venkatesh Ranganath P** **Tel:** +91 80 4032 9901, **Fax:** N.A. **E-mail:** reitcompliance@bagmanereit.com **Website:** www.bagmanereit.com Bidders can contact the Compliance Officer or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-Offer or post-Offer related issues such as non-receipt of Allotment Advice/ letter of Allotment, credit of Allotted Units in the respective beneficiary account, refund orders and non-receipt of funds by electronic mode.

AVAILABILITY OF THE OFFER DOCUMENT: Investors are advised to refer to the Offer Document and the *"Risk Factors"* section on page 48 of the Offer Document, contained therein before applying in the Offer. The Offer Document is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, BSE at www. bseindia.com, NSE at www.nseIndia.com and at the websites of the Book Running Lead Managers, i.e. JM Financial Limited, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Axis Capital Limited, IIFL Capital Services Limited *(Formerly known as IIFL Securities Limited)*, SBI Capital Markets Limited, 360 ONE WAM Limited and HDFC Bank Limited at www.jmfl.com, https://investmentbank.kotak.com, www.axiscapital.co.in, www.iiflcapital.com, www.sbicaps.com, https://www.360.one and www.hdfc.bank.in, respectively, and at the website of Bagmane Prime Office REIT at www.bagmanereit.com.

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORMS: Bid-cum-Application Forms can be obtained from the principal place of business of **Bagmane Prime Office REIT, Tel:** +91 80 4032 9901; at the offices of the **Book Running Lead Managers** : **JM Financial Limited, Tel:** +91 22 6630 3030; **Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Tel:** +91 22 4336 0000; **Axis Capital Limited, Tel:** +91 22 4325 2183; **IIFL Capital Services Limited** *(Formerly known as IIFL Securities Limited)*, **Tel:** +91 22 4646 4728; **SBI Capital Markets Limited, Tel:** +91 22 4006 9807; **360 ONE WAM Limited, Tel:** +91 22 4031 7000; and **HDFC Bank Limited, Tel:** +91 22 3395 8233, **Syndicate Members:** JM Financial Services Limited, **Tel:** +91 22 6136 3400; Kotak Securities Limited, **Tel:** +91 22 6218 5410; SBICAP Securities Limited, **Tel:** 91-22-69316411; Investec Capital Services (India) Private Limited, **Tel:** +91 9619551014; HDFC Securities Limited, **Tel:** +91 22 3075 3400; 360 ONE Capital Market Private Limited, **Tel:** +91 22 4031 7070 and at the select locations of the Sub-syndicate Members, SCSBs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Offer. Bid-cum-Application Forms will also be available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges and the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

APPLICATIONS SUPPORTED BY BLOCKED AMOUNT (ASBA): Investors other than Anchor Investors have to apply through the ASBA process. For details on the ASBA process, please refer to the details given in the ASBA Form and the Offer Document and also please refer to the section entitled *"Offer Procedure"* beginning on page 417 of the Offer Document. ASBA Forms can also be downloaded from the websites of the Stock Exchanges. ASBA form can be obtained from the list of banks that is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. ASBA Forms can be obtained from Members of the Syndicate, Registered Brokers from list provided on the websites of the BSE and the NSE at http://www.bseindia.com and http://www.nseindia.com, respectively, RTAs and CDPs from the list provided on the websites of Stock Exchanges at http://www.bseindia.com and https://www.nseindia.com, respectively.

Sub-syndicate Members: Almondz Global Securities Limited, Ambit Private Limited, Amrapali Capital & Finance Services Limited, Anand Rathi Share & Stock Broker, Anand Share Consultancy, ANS Pvt Limited, Asit C Mehta Financial Services Limited, Axis Securities Limited, Bajaj Financial Securities, Bob Capital Markets Limited, Centrum Broking Limited, Centrum Capital, Dalal & Broacha Stock Broking Private Limited, Equirus Securities Private Limited, Eureka Stock & Share Broking Services Ltd., Finwizard Technology Private Limited, Fisdom Technology, G Raj & Co. (Consultants) Limited, Globe Capital Market Delhi, ICICI Securities, IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Limited, IIFL Capital Services Limited, Inga Ventures Pvt Ltd., Innovate Securities Pvt Limited, Intensive Fiscal Services Private Limited, Jhaveri Securities, Kalpataru Multiplier Limited, Kantilal Chhaganlal, Kantilal Chhaganlal Securities Private Limited, Kantilal Chhaganlal Securities Pvt.Ltd., Keynote Capitals Limited, Keynote Capitals Limited, KJMC Capital Market Services Limited, KJMC Financial Services Limited, Lakshmishree Investment & Securities Pvt Limited, LKP Securities Limited, Marwadi Shares & Finance, Monarch Networth Capital Limited, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited, Motilal Oswal Securities Limited, Nextbillion Technology Private Limited, Nirmal Bang Securities Pvt Limited, Nuvama Wealth and Investment Limited, Pantomath Financial Services Ltd., Patel Wealth Advisors Pvt Limited, Prabhudas Lilladher Pvt Ltd., Pravin Ratilal Share & Stock Brokers Limited, Pravin Ratilal Sharedalal, Religare Broking Limited, Religare Securities, Rikhav Securities Ltd., RR Equity Brokers Private Limited, Sharekhan Limited, SMC Global Securities Limited, Sunidhi Securities & Finance Ltd., Tanna Financial Services, Tradebulls, Unistone Capital Pvt Ltd, Upstock Pvt Ltd, Wealth First Biz, YES Securities (india) Limited, Zerodha.

Escrow Collection Bank, Sponsor Bank, Refund Bank and Public Offer Bank Account : Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited; **Escrow Collection Bank, Sponsor Bank and Refund Bank**: Axis Bank Limited

All capitalized terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the Offer Document.

On behalf of
BAGMANE PRIME OFFICE REIT

Sd/-
Venkatesh Ranganath P
Compliance Officer

Place : Bengaluru, Karnataka
Date : May 5, 2026

BAGMANE PRIME OFFICE REIT, acting through its Investment Manager, is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial offer of its Units representing an undivided beneficial interest in Bagmane Prime Office REIT, and has filed the Offer Document with SEBI and the Stock Exchanges on April 27, 2026. The Offer Document is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, BSE at www.bseindia.com, NSE at www.nseindia.com, respectively, as well as on the website of the Book Running Lead Managers, i.e. JM Financial Limited, Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Axis Capital Limited, IIFL Capital Services Limited *(Formerly known as IIFL Securities Limited)*, SBI Capital Markets Limited, 360 ONE WAM Limited and HDFC Bank Limited at www.jmfl.com, https://investmentbank.kotak.com, www.axiscapital.co.in, www.iiflcapital.com, www.sbicaps.com, https://www.360.one and www.hdfc.bank.in, respectively. and at the website of the Bagmane Prime Office REIT at www.bagmanereit.com. Potential investors should note that investment in the Units involves a degree of risk, and for details relating to the same, should refer to the section *"Risk Factors"* on page 48 of the Offer Document. These materials are not for publication or distribution, directly or indirectly, in or into the United States. These materials are not an offer for the sale of the Units or other securities in the United States or elsewhere.

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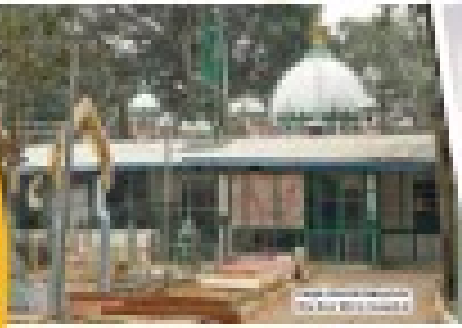
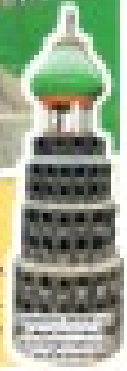
SAINTS, STORIES AND SOUL

A JOURNEY THROUGH BENGALURU'S SUFI TRAIL





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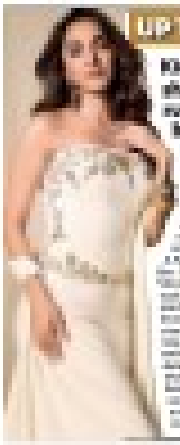

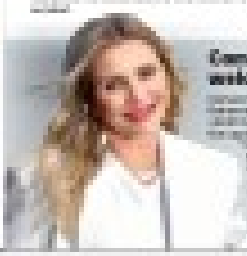

Sringeri seat recount: Cong plans forensic examination of ballots

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A day after the returning officer handed the election certificate to BJP candidate DN Jeevaraj, declaring him winner in the Sringeri assembly constituency, Congress Tuesday alleged "tampering" of postal ballots and a "criminal conspiracy" behind the reversal of the result.

At a joint press conference, chief minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar said valid postal ballot votes in favour of Congress' TD Rajegowda were "altered" during the recounting process ordered by the Karnataka high court. "This is a clear case of criminal conspiracy," Siddaramaiah said.

Following a direction by the high court on a petition filed by Jeevaraj challenging Rajegowda's 2023 victory, re-verification and recounting of postal ballots were conducted on Saturday (May 2).

After the exercise, the returning officer said Rajegowda's tally decreased by 255 votes and a report was submitted to the Election Commission. Rajegowda was originally declared winner of the seat by 201 votes in 2023. After Saturday's recount, Jeevaraj was declared elected by a margin of 52 votes.

Siddaramaiah alleged ballots initially accepted as valid were subsequently altered. "There is a second mark on votes polled in favour of Rajegowda. Officials and agents accepted these as valid votes during counting in 2023. But officials have now made another mark on them," he said. Asked who was behind it, he said, "It was hatched by Jeevaraj and others. It is planned."

He also questioned the conduct of the returning officer. "Immediately after the counting, the returning officer announced the result. He should not have done so; this is against the law," he said.

Calling the incident "vote dacoity", Siddaramaiah said a police complaint (stayed by high court) was filed by Rajegowda's election agent Sudhir Kumar and the govt will now pursue legal remedies.

"We want free and fair elections; that is what our Constitution mandates," he said, adding that an appeal is being prepared to challenge the declaration. He also said a forensic examination of the postal ballots would be ordered.

Shivakumar, also Karnataka Congress president, called the developments "unprecedented" and alleged large-scale irregularities. "Such an incident has not happened anywhere before. We will fight this legally," he said.

Explaining the process, he said postal ballots are opened and validated in the presence of party agents and officials before counting. He alleged ballots were altered after this stage and described it as "one of the biggest conspiracies in the country".

"They specifically insisted on recounting certain bundles of votes. Both officials and the BJP candidate appear to be involved in this malpractice. A thorough investigation is necessary," he said, while urging the Election Commission of India to intervene.

TOI

ALLEGATIONS FLY: CM Siddaramaiah, flanked by Rizwan Arshad and Saleem Ahmed, addresses a press conference on the recount in Sringeri seat, in Bengaluru on Tuesday

RAJEGOWDA ALLEGES INJUSTICE

TD Rajegowda, who lost his MLA position after the recount, said he was subjected to "grave injustice" and alleged that despite winning the election by a margin of 201 votes, he was "wrongfully defeated through manipulation". "This is unconstitutional. I have faith that I will get justice from the Election Commission and the courts," he said. He said in 2023 all parties signed official records confirming the vote count. "We will again approach the court. If justice is not delivered now, it will send the wrong message across the country," he said.

OATH DELAY: BJP APPROACHES GUV

Alleging a delay by legislative assembly speaker UT Khader in administering oath to MLA DN Jeevaraj, a BJP delegation led by opposition leader R Ashoka met governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot and urged him to intervene. Citing Article 188 (MLAs pledging allegiance to the Constitution), Ashoka accused Khader of inaction and warned of protests. He said the governor has assured action. BJP also demanded a CBI probe, alleging irregularities in both the 2023 counting process and the recent recount. "After receiving the certificate, no legal opinion is required even if the election is challenged in court," Ashoka said.

Centralised data cell planned to plug leaks from schemes

Sandeep.Moudgal
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Bengaluru: The govt has stepped up plans to establish a data analytics cell to create a unified database of beneficiaries across its welfare and social security schemes, a move aimed at identifying duplication, plugging leaks and improving delivery.

Announced by chief minister Siddaramaiah in the 2026-27 budget, the proposed cell will collate beneficiary data from the 15 to 20 people-facing departments and cross-reference them to generate a master list accessible across departments. Officials said the initiative is intended to ensure only eligible people receive benefits.

Pankaj Kumar Pandey, principal secretary, e-governance, said the move comes amid allegations of leaks in the guarantee schemes such as Gruha Lakshmi, including instances of funds being drawn in the names of deceased beneficiaries.

Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, at a KDP meeting in Kanakapura recently, said: "There are reports that schemes like Gruha Lakshmi and Anna Bhagya are being misused. I have collected details from officials and locals."

The proposed system will also help the govt regulate expenditure, potentially saving public funds. Beyond welfare schemes, the cell is expected to aid in detecting revenue leakages. For instance, one proposal under consideration involves linking data from the energy and commercial taxes departments to identify firms that exist only on paper.

"If a company is operational, it should have an active electricity connection. This can help identify shell companies," an official said, adding such cases could be flagged for physical inspection.

But concerns have been raised over potential political misuse of a centralised database, especially with state elections due in 2028. The data analytics cell is proposed to be run by a nine-member team, with an annual salary outlay of Rs 2.6 crore and an additional Rs 1 crore earmarked for hardware and software requirements.

EVMs are fine if Cong wins: Somanna

Union minister of state V Somanna described assembly polls results to five states as a "historic mandate", saying voters backed BJP decisively in three states and rejected opposition parties. Citing the results in Kerala, he said: "When Congress wins, EVMs are acceptable; when it loses, they are not." He said people "taught a lesson" to opposition parties for opposing the women reservation bill. Meanwhile, Somanna launched a new halt of the Mysuru Wodeyar Superfast Train at Ramanagara. The train service operates between KSR Bengaluru and Mysuru.

BSY Abhimanotsava: 1k seers to attend

More than 1,000 seers across castes will participate in the 'BSY Abhimanotsava' in Chitradurga on May 9 to mark 50 years of former chief minister BS Yediyurappa's political career. Organised by supporters and BJP functionaries, the event will be held at an open ground near the old national highway, where preparations are underway. Separate enclosures are being set up for pontiffs, functionaries, MLAs and MPs. Organisers said elected representatives are coordinating with seers. "Most of them have already confirmed their participation," said reception committee member Nagaraj Bedre. Around 10 lakh people are expected.

Global recognition for startup research

Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre (BBC), administered by the state govt as a not-for-profit organisation, has signed an MoU with National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) to facilitate global recognition for start-up led research. The MoU will provide startups operating within BBC simplified and accelerated access to NABL's rigorous accreditation processes, reducing the time and complexity involved in validating new research and products. BBC has claimed it has supported over 512 innovation projects, of which 24 are global startups and 72 patents.

₹64L makeover for DCM's office, home

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Public works department (PWD) will renovate the deputy chief minister's official residence, KK South-1, and office at Vidhana Soudha at an estimated cost of Rs 64 lakh.

A notification issued Monday states work at KK South-1, estimated to cost Rs 33 lakh, will involve providing a TV unit, wooden wall panelling, wooden flooring, and a false ceiling roof at the meeting hall, besides other allied work. PWD will also provide additional furniture.

In another notification, published on April 17, the govt approved renovation of the DCM's office at an estimated cost of Rs 31 lakh. PWD will provide working cabins, wardrobes and pantries in rooms allotted to the DCM at Vidhana Soudha.

The finance department has granted 4(g) exemption under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTPP) Act, allowing PWD to directly execute both projects without calling for tenders to procure materials.

Incidentally, PWD spent Rs 61 lakh last year to renovate the deputy CM's official residence.

Poll results offer Karnataka lessons in unity, governance

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Bengaluru: The assembly election results from five states suggest parties in Karnataka must change tack and focus on governance performance, alliance cohesion and clarity on the chief minister face, analysts say.

They say anti-incumbency continues to influence electoral outcomes, emphasising the need for govts to sustain delivery of welfare schemes and public services. They say the results also highlight the importance of consolidating social coalitions, especially among backward classes, Dalits and minorities.

"The most important lessons are threefold — governance and service delivery matter; arrogance in power is not accepted by voters; and party organisation, unity and a clear electoral strategy are key," said psephologist Sandeep Shastri.

Analysts say the results show fragmentation within opposition alliances weakened prospects in several states, highlighting the need for stronger coordination among partners — a key takeaway for the BJP–JD(S) alliance in Karnataka. Leadership appeal and campaign messaging were also seen as crucial, with regional issues often outweighing national narratives.

High voter turnout, especially among women, influenced outcomes significantly. Experts say this trend reflects the growing role of women voters, with parties in Karnataka expected to step up outreach ahead of upcoming elections.

Prof Harish Ramaswamy, political analyst, said the key takeaways are that both national parties — Congress and BJP — need to reassess governance and electoral strategies.

"Governance is a responsibility, not a display of power," Ramaswamy said. "Staying attuned to voter sentiment and working for people is the only way to win elections." He said electoral success depends on how effectively parties position their policies. "Elections are like marketplaces where policies and programmes must be presented in competitive terms for voters to make choices."

Ramaswamy also pointed to the effectiveness of micro-level campaign strategies in some regions. "Functionaries who addressed constituency-specific demands have seen results. In Karnataka, the major parties appear reluctant to adapt," he said.

Political strategist MB Maramkal said welfare delivery alone may not suffice and that visible governance outcomes are necessary. "Voters are evaluating both welfare benefits and overall performance, including infrastructure, employment and local development," he said, adding that internal leadership issues could influence outcomes as faces like PM Narendra Modi and Joseph Vijay played key roles.

Going forward, he said for Congress, the focus over the next two years is likely to remain on sustaining the guarantee schemes while strengthening governance delivery and providing clarity on the chief minister issue ahead of the 2028 assembly elections.

For the BJP–JD(S) combine, Maramkal said, there is an even bigger challenge as the priority is to identify a credible functionary to sharpen campaign strategy and present a unified challenge. "A mass face and internal unity are critical. Without those, outcomes can be impacted even in favourable conditions," he said.

TOI

WORK CUT OUT: Fans of Vijay celebrate his party's victory in the Tamil Nadu assembly elections, in Bengaluru on Tuesday

PATH FORWARD

Congress

- Sustain delivery of guarantees
- Address anti-incumbency through visible governance
- Consolidate support among backward classes, Dalits and minorities
- Provide clarity on the chief minister issue ahead of the 2028 assembly elections

BJP–JD(S) alliance

- Identify a credible and acceptable face to anchor the campaign
- Ensure stronger coordination and cohesion within the alliance
- Avoid factions and present a unified electoral strategy
- Expand social coalition to compete with Congress' support base

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8th YEAR REMEMBRANCE

Born 03/03/1948 Death : 06/05/2018

SRI G Y RANGAIAH

Retd Sen Eng. Lecturer, Gout PU College, Banaswara.

Fondly remembered by
Wife : K.R. Vijayalakshmi,
Son : Dr. Rohit & Daughter : Dr. Sowmya
Grand daughter : Tanmayi

Our beloved mother,
Lalitha Matthew,
passed away on May 5 , 2026.

She will always be remembered for her compassion, generosity, and her sense of adventure.

Condolences can be sent to:
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Ajit, Annu,
David, Sneha,
Adina, and Tia

12th Anniversary Remembrance

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P.W.D. Executive Engineer (Rtd.)
12.04.1932 - 06.05.2014
Founder President
SSB GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS
Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560 038

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Daughter & Family Members,
The Management Committee,
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Met Gala turns the carpet into canvas

Co-chairs for the evening

Money raised by Met Gala in numbers

Not abandoned; I'm well taken care of: Rahul clears the air

Indian movies are a blind-spot, but I'd love to visit India: Adam

A PARCHED PLOT TWIST

Water board says 'cut' to Rajamouli's 150-tanker request

What happened

We prioritised residents over about 1,000,000

Schedule towards Ghaly

B'luru eyes world-class status with economic masterplan: DKS

Govt Signs MoU With Foundation To Prepare Action Plan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Declaring an ambition to transform Bengaluru into a "world-class growth hub" ahead of its 500-year milestone in 2037, deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar Tuesday said the govt will anchor the city's future development in a comprehensive economic masterplan for Bengaluru Metropolitan Region (BMR).

"We intend to make Bengaluru a world-class growth hub. The city is already competing with global centres like Tokyo, and we want to build on that momentum," Shivakumar said.

His remarks came after state govt signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Institute for Sustainability, Employment and Growth (ISEG) Foundation to prepare a comprehensive economic masterplan. The plan will guide the broader development of the nearly 8,000 sqkm Bengaluru Metropolitan Region. ISEG, which is also knowledge partner of NITI Aayog for similar plans in cities such as Mumbai, Surat, Pune, Visakhapatnam and Varanasi, will prepare the blueprint over the next four months. Progress will be reviewed monthly by a steering committee comprising senior govt officials.

Highlighting the need for a shift in planning approach, ISEG director Shirish Sankhe said economic strategy must come first. "While Bengaluru has done very well economically, much remains to be done in terms of quality of life and inclusivity. The economic masterplan will address these aspects along with sustainability," he said.

Shivakumar clarified that the proposed plan is distinct from the revised master plan focused on land use. "This plan will look at the distribution of economic activity across the city and the larger metropolitan region," he said.

Additional chief secretary (urban development) Tushar Giri Nath signed the MoU in the presence of Shivakumar and chief secretary Shalini Rajneesh among other senior secretaries and GBA commissioners. "We have milestones every five years even as the masterplan has projections for the next 15 years. The current masterplan includes two five-year phases between 2027 to 2037," Tushar Giri Nath said. Chief secretary Shalini Rajneesh said the upcoming masterplan will be integrated with the land-use master plan and will be a comprehensive plan. "The problem is with mobility and congestion. Bengaluru being the major economic engine of the state, we need to consider planning for a greater area around the city, including the possibility of satellite towns," she said.

Second-largest hub for AI talent

TOI

BMR, spanning over 8,000 sqkm across Bengaluru Urban, Rural and South districts, has a population of around 16 million and a GDP of $149 billion (FY25). It accounts for 42% of India's software exports, hosts over 875 Global Capability Centres (over 30% of the national total) and ranks as the world's second-largest hub for artificial intelligence talent, with its economy growing at over 9% annually.

HC closes Ranveer Singh petition after apology

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: "Any repetition of the kind of conduct now highlighted in the petition would undoubtedly be viewed seriously," Karnataka high court observed while disposing of a petition filed by actor **Ranveer Singh**.

The petition pertained to a criminal case registered against him over his controversial mimicry and remarks referring to Chavundi Daiva

DEITY REMARK

— a revered deity in coastal Karnataka — as a "female ghost", during International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held in Goa in Nov last year.

During the hearing, Ranveer Singh filed an affidavit apologising, stating he had "unintentionally and inadvertently" offended the sentiments of communities that worship Chavundi Daiva.

"I have the deepest respect and regard for Hindu religion in all its manifestations, as well as for all religions and communities around the world, including in Karnataka. I have realised and understood the sensitivity surrounding the issue and therefore, express my deepest regret and convey my sincere and unconditional apology. I will, in due course, visit the temple of the deity in Mysuru — Shri Chamundeshwari Temple — to offer prayers and express my devotion," the actor stated in his affidavit.

"In light of the petitioner tendering an apology and undertaking to visit the temple, and considering the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case, I deem it appropriate to take the affidavit on record and close the proceedings qua the petitioner for the offences in question. However, this is subject to the condition that the petitioner shall visit the temple within an outer limit of four weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order," Justice M Nagaprasanna observed in his order.

Woman creates ruckus at star hotel, assaults cops

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 23-year-old woman from Mumbai was arrested for creating a ruckus at a five-star hotel on Palace Road in Bengaluru and later allegedly assaulting women police officers at the station. The accused, identified as Taniya Dhila, had travelled to the city to attend an event at Bangalore International Exhibition Centre.

According to sub-inspector Lakshmi's complaint, police helpline (112) received a call reporting a disturbance at Shangri-La Hotel. A Hoysala patrol vehicle was immediately dispatched to the scene with assistant sub-inspector Samiullah along with constable Ramesh Putti.

TESTS +VE FOR DRUG

The officers found Taniya shouting at hotel staff. They attempted to calm her, but she remained agitated, refused to cooperate, and continued arguing with both the staff and police. Later, at the police station, she allegedly assaulted women officers. A medical examination conducted on suspicion of substance use confirmed the presence of marijuana in her system.

She was then taken to another private hospital to test for drug consumption which too came positive. The situation then escalated dramatically, with Taniya allegedly turning violent and attacking Lakshmi. She allegedly pulled Lakshmi's hair, tore her uniform, and kicked her. Two constables, Sunitha and Najeema Mabusab Nadaf tried to intervene but were also assaulted. Najeema was bitten on the hand, drawing blood.

Amid the chaos, the accused reportedly hurled abuses at the officers, further escalating tension. A case has been registered against Taniya under BNS Sections 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), 132 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

TIMES NIE CONGRATULATES SCHOOL TOPPERS OF 2025-26 EXAMINATIONS AND EXTENDS BEST WISHES FOR FUTURE

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ICSE	
Outreach School	Shanmukha Naga Sai Akshara Chintamani
Patel Public School	Bindhu Shree
Podar International School, Bannerghatta Road	Ashwath Pradeep KP
Presidency School, NLO	Thanav Arunagiri
Presidency School, RT Nagar	Arhaam Shariff
Primus Public School	Jayant Bhojasia
RV Public School, VV Puram	Anirudh S
Redbridge International Academy	Rayhan M
Ryan International School, Bannerghatta Road	Adityavardhan Gupta
Ryan International School, Kundalahalli	Devansh Agarwal
Ryan International School, Yelahanka	Ritesh S
Sarala Birla Academy	Pravesh Agrawal
SFS Public School ICSE & ISC, Hebbagodi	Anaya Jain
Shantha Vidyaniketan, Perersandra	Sonakshi NK Madiwal
Shanthidhama Public School, Sunkadakatte	Deeksha S
Sharada Vidyalaya Public School, TG Halli	Vishrutha M
Sherwood High	Krishna Sai Samyak & Smyan Nayak
Shree DPH High School	Imad Hussain Pasha & Thanushka
Sidhartha International School, Nagasandra post	Chaithra R
Sishu Griha Senior School, Thippasandra	Shreyaa Vignesh
SJBSSS Public School, Rajajinagar	Amulya M Banakar
SJR Kengeri Public School (Commerce)	Yashaswini TR
SJR Kengeri Public School (Science)	Anil Kumar Gowda H
Spurthy Global School	Nidhi G
SSM Public School, Nelagadaranahalli	Ruchika KR
St Anthony's Public School, TC Palya	Kaavya Shakthi MN
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Relative steals gold from min's home, nabbed

Bengaluru: A relative of housing minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan is among two men arrested by police for stealing gold jewellery worth Rs 1.13 crore from the former's house on Station Road near Bangalore Cantonment railway station.

Police identified the accused as **Ameer Ahmed**, 48, a resident of Govindapura, and Syed Ameen Ahmed, 48, a resident of Mathikere. Ameer is a relative of Khan's mother, and he was a frequent visitor to the house.

He gained the family's trust by doing work that Khan's mother required. He had access to her bedroom. Whenever she wanted something, she used to call him, take out money from her cupboard and give it to him.

Ameer noticed the ornaments in the cupboard and conspired to steal them. During his visits, he started stealing the ornaments. Police received a complaint on April 15 from Khan's mother. The gold, received as wedding gifts and purchased through savings, were kept in a cupboard in her room. About 1.3 kg of gold ornaments were missing.

She told police she suspected Ameer and he was detained the next day. He had pledged the gold through Syed to a finance firm and a jewellery shop in Mathikere and Kammagondanahalli. Police seized 759 grams of gold. TNN

Man walks through office door, steals six laptops from desks

Bengaluru: A miscreant stole six laptops from a private firm in HSR Layout Sector 1 recently.

According to the complaint filed by admin staff of Linking Spaces Technologies Pvt Ltd, the office opened at 9.30am on April 30 and the theft happened within a few minutes. An unidentified man arrived on a two-wheeler, parked it outside the office and casually walked in through an open door. He swiftly picked up six laptops from desks, put them in a bag and fled the scene.

The incident came to light after office staff found their laptops missing. A senior officer said the complaint was filed two days after the incident. CCTV cameras of the office and surrounding places captured the suspect, and efforts are on to nab him. A case has been registered. TNN

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HC upholds Leave India Notice against Frenchman

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Christophe Stephane Monxion was allegedly running a restaurant in Gokarna for 15 years, violating visa conditions. He was issued notice by Foreigners' Regional Registration Office, Bengaluru, on March 16

Bengaluru: Karnataka high court has upheld the Leave India Notice (LIN) issued against Christophe Stephane Monxion, a French national who was allegedly running a restaurant in Gokarna for the past 15 years, violating visa conditions.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum dismissed the petition filed by Monxion, challenging the notice issued by Foreigners' Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Bengaluru, on March 16 and seeking consideration of representations submitted by him on March 24 and 27.

Monxion claimed he is in possession of a tourist visa valid till Nov 24, 2026. He claimed the issuance of LIN was arbitrary and in violation of his fundamental rights.

Deputy solicitor general of India, Shanthi Bhushan H, submitted that the petitioner was involved in commercial activities and running a hotel for the past 15 years, in violation of visa conditions. He also placed before court reports of law enforcement agencies vis-a-vis the petitioner.

After perusing the materials on record, Justice Magadum declined to interfere with the LIN.

"These materials, prima facie, indicate the petitioner, though having entered India on a tourist visa, indulged in commercial activities by running a restaurant, which is impermissible under the visa regime, and was further involved in disputes with landowners coupled with allegations of misconduct, including issuance of threats and inappropriate communication," the judge noted.

"This court is of the considered opinion that the impugned LIN is a valid exercise of statutory power," Justice Magadum observed.

Case based on plaint by Cong agent

▶ Continued from page 1

Referring to Supreme Court's observation in the West Bengal case when it had to appoint judges to oversee the polling process, the judge said "they will come here too. We have to appoint judicial officers as returning officers. This is not a good development."

The case refers to Sringeri assembly election in which Congress candidate TD Rajegowda was declared a winner by a margin of 201 votes in 2023. After the result was challenged by defeated candidate Jeevaraj, the high court ordered a recount of postal ballot votes, including reverification of 279 rejected postal ballots.

On May 3 this year, the returning officer formally declared Jeevaraj a winner.

Based on a complaint by Congress election agent Sudhir Kumar Murolli that ballots were tampered with, a criminal case was registered against Jeevaraj, Chikkamagaluru deputy commissioner KN Ramesh and former returning officer Vedamurthy, among others.

The high court judge said the FIR has been registered now on an incident that took place on May 13, 2023.

"If there have been deviations, the answer was an election petition. Why was the present returning officer not made an accused," the judge asked.

State public prosecutor BA Belliappa said that there were serious vote-tampering allegations.

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tender & notices

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All that piece and parcel of the Converted Land bearing **Sy.No. 28/3,** measuring **1 Acre 26 Guntas,** (converted vide. Order bearing No. 413342/ALN(ASH) SR/179/2022-23, dated 23/11/2022, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District, Bengaluru.), situated at **Kada Agrahara Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District** and bounded on:-

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South : Land bearing Sy.No.27.

ITEM No.2 :

All that piece and parcel of the Converted Land bearing **Sy.No. 29/2,** measuring **34 Guntas,** (converted vide. Order bearing No. 413340/ALN(ASH)SR/178/2022-23, dated 23/11/2022, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District, Bengaluru.), situated at **Kada Agrahara Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District** and bounded on:-

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G.V. Sudhakar,
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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sri. K. R. Sathish Reddy, Aged about 51 Years, S/o. Late Rama Reddy. A, R/at No.20, Royale Habitat Housing Colony, Near Nagarjuna Apartment, HSR Layout 2nd Sector, Bangalore-560034 now Bangalore-560102 declares that my name is to be read as (i) " K. R. Sathish Reddy" (ii) "Sathish Reddy K. R." and (iii) " K.R. Satish Reddy " (iv) "Satish Reddy K.R." for all practical purposes by reading along with Aadhar Cards and other documents and the same is attested before the Notary public Sri.C.Venkatapathy Advocate and Notary Sl.No.131 Page No.08, Volume No.03 dated 28-04-2026.

I, MYTHILI HEMANTH KUMAR (formerly Mythili Mani), D/o Late Mr. V.B. Mani, R/o No. 4, 3rd Cross, Mariappa Road, 1st Right Lane, 5th Main, Kammanahalli, Blore-560084, have adopted the name MYTHILI HEMANTH KUMAR post-marriage. The names Mythili, Mythili Mani, M. Mythili, Mythili M., and MYTHILI HEMANTH KUMAR refer to one and the same person. I shall use these names and varied signatures interchangeably for all future purposes and asset claims. Sworn vide affidavit dated 04-05-2026 before Notary Sivakumara M.N., Bangalore.

I,SUDHAKAR.M ,S/o Channaiah M aged about 53 years R/o No. 30, "C" Block , Ambedkar Nagar, D.J Halli, Arabic College Post , Blr-45 , My Surname should be mentioned as Munagapati instead of Sudhakar Munagapati vide Affidavit dated 2.05.26 .Henceforth, I shall be known as Sudhakar & My Surname is Munagapati for all purposes including passport verification Notary B.Seshagiri Bangalore

I, Madhwaraj Narayana Rao S/o. H. S. Narayana Rao, R/o. E-304, Renaissance Park - 1, 1st Main, Subramanyanagar, Bangalore 560055, have changed my name from Madhwaraj Narayana Rao to Madhwaraj Rao for all purposes vide affidavit no. IN-KA41592020355 57Y sworn before S.R. Paramashivaiah, Public Notary dated 23-04-2026

I, Venkatachalapathi D Residing at, No.318, 2nd Main, Hosapalya, Behind Royal Bakery, Bommanahalli Post, Ward No.190. Bangalore-560068 have changed my daughter's name from MRITTIKA V to MANVI ADIRA V vide affidavit dt: 04.10.2024 sworn before notary S Samual Solomon,B'lore.

I, SUBHASHINI GUNASHEKAR W/o AVM S.S GUNASHEKAR. Residing at No. 271, 11th "B" Cross, 17th Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bengaluru-560078, Have changed my name to SUBASHINI GUNASHEKAR vide affidavit dated 05/05/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Saloni Singh W/o Anshuman Parashar R/o Flat No: 07103, 10th Floor, Wing 7, Sobha Dream Acres, Balagere Panathur Road, Bangalore, 560087. I have changed my name from Saloni Kumari to Saloni Singh for all future purposes.

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Department: QA / QC (Deputy Project Managers/Asst. Engineer & Lab Technician)
Qualification: Diploma / BE / BTECH-Civil, 03-10 years of experience

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Department: Resource Mobilization (Senior Assistants & Officers)
Qualification: Relevant Degree, 05-10 years of experience

Department: Safety (HSE) (Deputy Manager/Asst. Manager/Officers & Assistants)
Qualification: Relevant Degree & Diploma in fire & Safety / NEBOSH, 02-08 years of experience

Department: Accounts / Finance (Assistant Manager/Officers)
Qualification: Relevant Degree, 02-08 years of experience

Department: Survey (Senior Surveyor/Assistant)
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Venue: M/s. NCC LIMITED, 372/373, Sridevi Properties, Major Akshay GirishKumar Road, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore - 560064, Landmark: Opp. Cambridge Public School | Date & Timings: 9th May2026 from 09:30 AM – 04:00 PM.
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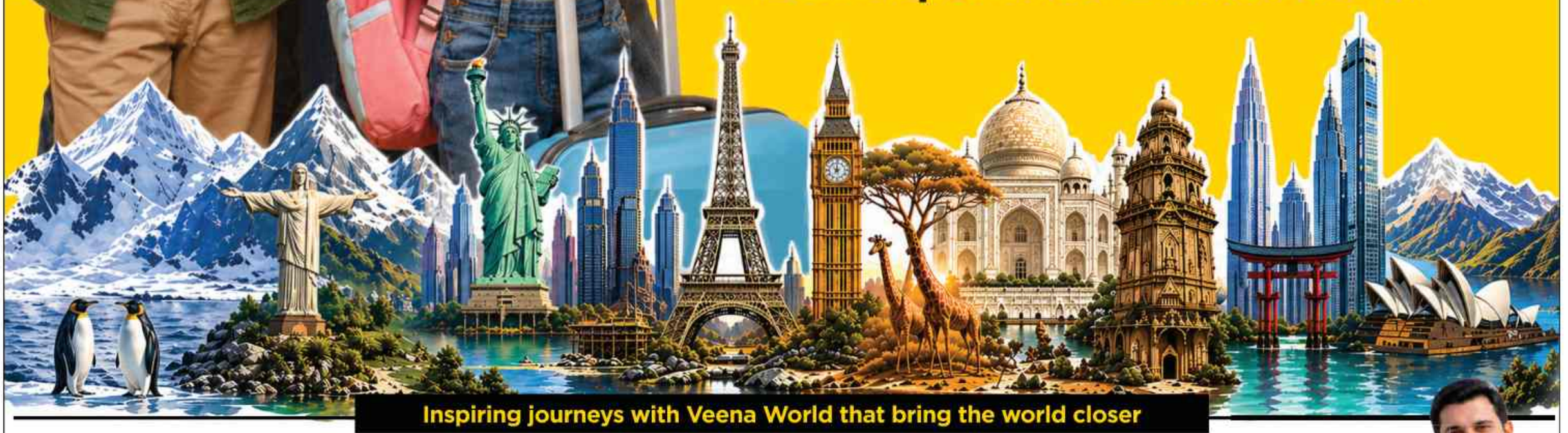

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India - 50 Options

Tour Name	J&L	Ex-Mumbai
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Sham Valley Ladakh Trek (7D)	50K-60K	77K-87K
Kashmir (6D)	35K-79K	54K-99K
Shimla Manali (Mum-Del-Mum) (6D)	31K-41K	44K-50K
Shimla Manali (Mum-C'garh-Mum) (8D)	45K-50K	62K-66K
Dharamshala Dalhousie Amritsar (8D)	45K-50K	67K-72K
Amritsar (4D)	24K-30K	36K-40K
Nainital Mussoorie/Corbett(6D/8D)	44K-60K	55K-70K
Nainital Mukteshwar Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary (6D)	49K-56K	59K-66K
Chardham (7D/9D/11D/13D)	52K-85K	60K-93K
Sikkim Darjeeling/Pelling (7D/9D)	55K-65K	77K-85K
Best of Arunachal (9D) May 29	85K-90K	105K-110K
All of Meghalaya (8D)	74K-80K	94K-100K
Indore Ujjain Mandu (5D)	33K-38K	41K-45K
Uttar Pradesh Ayodhya/Mathura/Varanasi (4D-8D)	24K-60K	33K-61K
Gujarat (5D)	32K-36K	42K-46K
Karnataka Coorg/Dandeli (6D/8D)	45K-63K	53K-72K
Keralam (6D/8D)	32K-52K	39K-65K
Andaman (7D)	55K-60K	75K-82K

Australia Africa Far East Asia

Tour Name	J&L	Ex-Mumbai
Australia (7D/9D/15D)	150K-440K	225K-515K
New Zealand (10D/15D)	285K-405K	375K-495K
Australia New Zealand (11D/17D)	270K-495K	385K-575K
South Africa Kenya Victoria Falls (15D)	--	455K-480K
South Africa (9D/13D)	190K-310K	240K-360K
Kenya (5D/8D/12D)	140K-360K	175K-440K
Best of Mauritius (6D)	85K-95K	125K-135K
Mauritius Seychelles (8D)	216K-240K	250K-275K
Mauritius Madagascar (8D)	--	385K-400K
Uganda Rwanda (8D)	--	525000
Kenya Tanzania Zanzibar (12D)	--	575000
Japan (5D-17D)	120K-595K	175K-650K
Best of Japan (8D)	195K-205K	250K-260K
Japan Explorer (10D) June 4	--	288K-350K
Japan Korea (10D)	295K-320K	350K-375K
Best of China (9D)	125K-135K	175K-185K
Highlights of China (7D)	95K-105K	150K-160K
Nepal (8D)	62K-72K	84K-94K
Sri Lanka (7D)	74K-84K	100K-110K
Bhutan (7D/9D)	65K-85K	85K-105K

South East Asia

Tour Name	J&L	Ex-Mumbai
Singapore Thailand Malaysia Hong Kong (13D)	--	252K-262K
Singapore Thailand Malaysia (10D)	130K-140K	170K-180K
Singapore Malaysia Bali (10D)	--	197K-207K
Singapore Malaysia (7D)	125K-135K	150K-160K
HKG Macao Shenzhen (7D)	137K-147K	190K-200K
Singapore with Bintan (5D)	109K-119K	135K-145K
Best of Singapore (5D)	106K-115K	129K-139K
Kuala Lumpur Malaysia (4D)	36K-46K	69K-79K
Best of Bali (7D) June 2	90K-100K	125K-135K
Thailand (4D/6D/8D/15D)	30K-65K	50K-175K
Phuket Krabi (4D)	46K-56K	67K-77K
Bangkok Pattaya Phuket Krabi (8D)	91K-100K	125K-135K
Chiang Mai Chiang Rai Phuket Krabi (9D)	--	152K-162K
Vietnam (5D/8D/13D)	--	105K-204K
Vietnam Sapa Phu Quoc (7D)	--	131K-140K
Vietnam Da Nang Phu Quoc (11D)	--	209K-219K
Vietnam Cambodia (11D)	--	200K-205K
Philippines Manila Cebu (8D)	--	197000

North America South America

Tour Name	J&L	Ex-Mumbai
USA East & West Coast + Orlando & Bahamas Cruise (19D)	625K-650K	--
USA + Death Valley & Yosemite (16D/18D)	550K-600K	--
USA East & West Coast with Chicago & National Park (22D)	680K-705K	--
USA California Carnival with Death Valley & Yosemite (10D)	325K-350K	--
USA East Coast/Chicago (7D/9D)	195K-260K	--
USA East & West Coast with Orlando Disneyland & NASA (15D)	460K-485K	--
USA East Coast with Boston & Vermont (Autumn Colours) (11D)	320K-335K	--
Chicago with National Parks (10D)	318K-335K	--
USA West Coast (7D)	230K-245K	--
Canada Alaska (18D)	660K-685K	--
Best of Alaska (9D)	295K-310K	--
Best of Canada (11D)	430K-445K	--
Hawaii Mexico (11D)	690K-715K	--
Antarctica (13D) Nov 28	1135000	1335000
South America (21D) Sept 26	1075000	1350000

Europe - 60 Options

Western, Eastern, Northern, Mediterranean

Europe (6D-27D)
Swiss Paris /Swiss Austria (8D)
Switzerland (7D/10D)
Swiss Paris London (11D)
England Scotland Ireland Wales (10D/15D)
Scandinavia (10D/15D)
Scandinavia Midnight Sun (16D)
Scandinavia Iceland (15D)
Greenland (9D) Aug 31
Central & Eastern Europe (17D)
Spain Portugal Morocco (16D)
Greece (5D/7D/9D/14D)

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TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026

VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT TO LAM, WHO IS ON AN INDIA VISIT, MEDITATES UNDER MAHABODHI TREE

VIJAYAN'S AUTHORITARIAN LEADERSHIP COST LDF: SUNNY JOSEPH AFTER UDF SWEEP IN KERALA

HACK OF THE DAY — **VERIFY IF GOLD JEWELLERY IS GENUINE BEFORE BUYING**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps you check whether hallmarked jewellery and BIS-marked products are genuine before you trust the seller's word

WHAT TO DO: Use the BIS Care app to verify HUID, ISI mark, or licence details while buying jewellery or certified products

STEPS:

1. **Install** the BIS Care app from the official app store
2. **Find** the HUID number on hallmarked gold jewellery or the licence number on a BIS-marked product
3. **Open** Verify HUID or Verify Licence Details in the app
4. **Enter** the number exactly as printed
5. **Match** the purity, product, licence, and seller details before paying

CAREFUL: Do this before purchase, especially for high-value jewellery. A hallmark symbol alone is not enough if the HUID or licence details do not match

SCAN FOR MORE

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

T'gana thieves courier back stolen saris

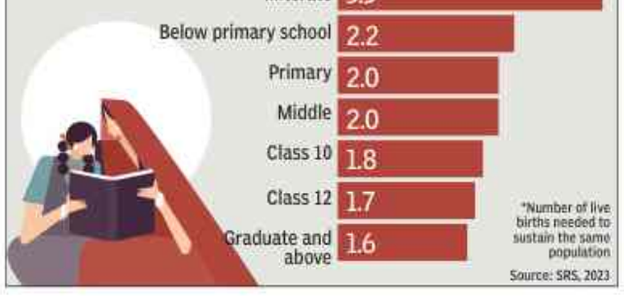
Thieves returning stolen articles to their rightful owners suo motu is rare. Staff at the govt-run Boyanika handlooms outlet in Odisha's Angul district were in for a surprise when they discovered several high-value saris, stolen from their store last month, were returned, neatly packed in parcels. Altogether 25 saris, valued at over Rs 7 lakh, were stolen on April 11 by a group of well-dressed women, who visited the showroom in the afternoon. According to a complaint lodged at Angul police station, the customers examined several sarees but bought only a kurta worth Rs 1,400. Later, the staff discovered 25 saris were missing. CCTV footage showed the women concealing saris under their clothes before leaving. Boyanika lodged a police complaint the same night and shared the CCTV footage with police for identification of the thieves. The videos soon went viral on social media. On Saturday, Boyanika staff were in for a surprise. A large courier packet containing 24 of the 25 stolen saris reached their store. TNN

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Even basic schooling brings fertility rate to below replacement

According to data for 2023, women with primary education had a total fertility rate of 2, which is below the replacement level* of 2.1. Graduate women were found to have the least number of children on average, suggesting that higher education is linked to smaller families

Total fertility rate by level of mother's education, 2023



Indrani seeks court nod to travel abroad

Mumbai: Indrani Mukerjea, accused in the murder of her daughter, Sheena Bora, has moved special CBI court seeking to travel abroad. Rejecting her plea in April, the Supreme Court said it had already asked her to move the trial court where proceedings against her are pending. In Feb 2025, the SC also rejected her plea. "There is no guarantee that you will come back," the bench observed, **reports Rebecca Samervel.**

Post-poll violence in Bengal leaves 4 dead, dozens injured

Police Claim Situation Is Under Control

Dwaipayan Ghosh & Tamaghna Banerjee | TNN

AFTERMATH: Unknown miscreants set documents and TMC party flags on fire as they vandalise the party office in Asansol, Tuesday

Kolkata: The assembly poll verdict in Bengal triggered a spiral of violence across the state, leaving at least four people dead, dozens injured and party offices ransacked, as rival cadres from Trinamool Congress and BJP clashed in multiple districts overnight.

Two deaths were reported in Kolkata within 24 hours. In Beleghata, Trinamool poll agent Biswajit Pattanaik, 45, was found bleeding at his doorstep after stepping out following a phone call. Police suspect he was chased, tried to flee across rooftops and fell, though his family alleges he was dragged out and beaten. "They broke the door and assaulted him mercilessly. Neighbours were too scared to help," a relative said.

A murder probe is underway. BJP denied any role. "He fell on a tap. It broke and washed away his blood. That's why family did not see blood at the spot, though he was bleeding from his nose and ears," a policeman said.

The killing revived memories of the 2021 post-poll murder of BJP worker Abhijit Sarkar in the same locality, a case now under CBI probe. CBI named 20 suspects, including former Trinamool MLA Paresh Pal, in supplementary chargesheets, leading to arrests and judicial custody of even police officers in 2025.

Hours later in New Town, about 12km northeast of the city centre, BJP worker Madhu Mondal, 46, died after a clash with Trinamool Congress supporters. Police said he was pushed and kicked during a confrontation over control of a party office. He collapsed and was declared dead at hospital. The accused fled as tensions flared, triggering vandalism of his home.

Violence spread rapidly across Kolkata. Party offices were attacked, flags torn down and vehicles damaged from Behala to Kalighat and Shyampukur. In CM Mamata Banerjee's Bhowanipur constituency, a councillor's office was broken into and set ablaze. Across several wards, TMC offices were seized or defaced, with BJP flags hoisted.

At University of Calcutta in College Street, clashes erupted as posters were torn down and student activists assaulted, leaving several injured. Rival groups traded blame. Police said the situation was "under control" and warned against misinformation online.

Beyond the capital city, the violence cut a wider swathe. In Udaynarayanpur, about 35km southwest of Kolkata, BJP activist Jadav Bar, 45, was allegedly lynched. Police arrested four suspects, citing a possible personal dispute while probing political motives. Central forces have been deployed.

In Nanoor, around 160km northwest of Kolkata, TMC worker Abir Sheikh, 45, was hacked to death. His family blamed BJP cadres. BJP rejected the charge, calling it factional rivalry. Fresh clashes were also reported in Jalpaiguri.

New CM likely on May 9, Tagore's b'day

New Delhi: The drill for formation of a BJP govt in WB has kicked in, with the outgoing assembly set to be dissolved anytime and newly elected BJP MLAs likely to endorse party's CM pick before May 9.

Home minister Amit Shah, who scripted BJP's landslide win, is likely to preside over the meeting of newly elected MLAs amid indications that Suvendu Adhikari, who defeated Mamata on her home turf of Bhabanipur, has emerged as the frontrunner for CM's post. Sources said the party was also considering appointment of a deputy CM.

Sources said that the governor may soon announce dissolution of the state assembly, whose five-year-term runs out on Friday. Dissolution of the House will end Mamata's term irrespective of whether or not she steps down.

Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya said in Kolkata that the oath-taking ceremony may take place on May 9, which happens to be Pochishe Boishakh and the birth anniversary of Rabindra Nath Tagore, in Kolkata's legendary Maidan. The choice of the possible date fits in with BJP's emphasis on integrating itself with West Bengal's cultural tradition. TNN

Cabinet okays plan to put Vande on a par with Jana Gana

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CABINET MOVES

- **Okays proposal** to amend Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act that **will put national song Vande Mataram on same footing as national anthem**
- **Approves 'Mission for Cotton Productivity'** with ₹5,659cr allocation for 5 yrs
- CCEA clears development of a **ship repair facility at Vadinar**, Gujarat, at ₹1,570cr cost
- **OKs 3 railway multi-tracking projects** worth ₹23.4k cr
- **Clears revised FRP at ₹365/quintal for sugarcane** for '26–27 season, ₹10/q more than current price

New Delhi: In its first decision after sweeping the Bengal polls, Cabinet Tuesday approved a proposal to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act to put National Song Vande Mataram, composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, on the same footing as the National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana.

At present, the law provides jail, fine or both for insults to National Flag and Constitution, and for preventing singing of National Anthem. Under the proposal cleared by the Cabinet chaired by PM Modi, Vande Mataram would be added to this list, making non-compliance of norms a cognisable offence. The country is celebrating the 150th year of Vande Mataram.

For this, Section 3 of the Act would be amended. It currently states that whoever intentionally prevents the singing of the National Anthem or causes disturbance to any assembly engaged in such singing shall be punished with imprisonment up to three years, or fine, or both. Repeat offences attract at least one year jail.

During Parliament's special discussion on the "150th Year of Vande Mataram" in Dec last year, defence minister Rajnath Singh strongly advocated elevating the song's status to match National Anthem, accusing Congress of historically communalising it and sidelining it due to appeasement politics.

The move is politically significant given the cultural and historical resonance of the song, particularly in Bengal, and the prominent place it occupied in India's freedom movement. Unlike the National Anthem, it has so far not enjoyed explicit legal protection. The song, a rallying cry for freedom fighters, was first published in Bankim Chandra's 1882 novel Anandmath, inspired by the sanyasi rebellion against the East India Company rule in Bengal.

Earlier in Jan, the MHA guidelines outlined conduct concerning Vande Mataram.

After poll result, ED changes gear, trouble headed TMC's way

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This will be the second round of questioning by ED of Sujit Bose (right), former fire minister who was defeated Monday, and Rathin Ghosh, food minister who won from Madhyamgram seat

New Delhi: As it reels under the trauma of assembly poll debacle, more trouble seems to be heading TMC's way with ED set to question party seniors Sujit Bose and Rathin Ghosh — both ministers in the outgoing Mamata govt — on Wednesday in Kolkata in connection with its investigation into the municipality recruitment 'scam' case.

This will be the second round of questioning of Bose — fire minister defeated in his stronghold Bidhannagar — and Ghosh — food minister who won from Madhyamgram — who were directed by court to join the probe.

While CM Mamata Banerjee's terms were marked by a string of alleged scams, the one related to recruitment to municipalities stands out because of money trail, sources in ED said, reaching precariously close to her nephew and Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee — Mamata's putative successor, who was widely referred to as the CM-in-waiting until BJP landslide buried Trinamool's ambition to prolong its stay.

Multiple money laundering cases being probed by ED — including political consultancy firm I-PAC in the coal smuggling 'scam' — are all set to return to Kolkata from Delhi. Probes were stalled as ED officials were being "intimidated" in Kolkata and many accused refused to cooperate in investigations despite repeated summons.

Sources said ED is also likely to resume questioning of the accused, including Abhishek, his wife Rujira, ex-DGP Rajeev Kumar, ex-Kolkata police commissioner Manoj Verma, then DCP South Kolkata Priyabrata Roy, besides I-PAC chief Pratik Jain, from whose premises Mamata, in presence of her police brass, took away files seized by the agency during a search operation on Jan 8.

Rujira faces probe of alleged laundering Rs 168 crore proceeds of crime from the coal 'scam'. ED earlier claimed part of this money was laundered out of the country through hawala channels and deposited in bank accounts beneficially owned by her in Thailand and London.

Former minister Partha Chatterjee has been summoned too in SSC teachers' recruitment 'scam' case, one of the prominent themes in the polls. The footage of the recovery of Rs 50 crore cash from the flat of his female accomplice in July 2022, had created a sensation. Later, ED attached other assets linked to Chatterjee and his associates, totalling Rs 110 crore. The unaccounted cash and assets were treated by ED as proceeds of crime from alleged bribes received in the case.

Besides the ones it is already investigating, Mamata's defeat removes a big obstacle it faced in launching new probes — refusal of West Bengal govt to register FIR which denied ED the basis for a predicate offence to step in.

Corruption allegation and seizure of huge unaccounted cash from premises linked to her ministers and party functionaries tarnished Mamata Banerjee's spartan and austere lifestyle, an image she had carefully crafted to consolidate her vote bank. They were too many 'scam' cases — Saradha, Rose Valley, teachers' recruitment, municipal recruitment, PDS foodgrains distribution.

Abhishek's close aide Vinay Mishra, a Youth TMC neta, fled after ED began searches in the coal 'scam' in 2021-22. Mishra, as per the poll body, took citizenship of Vanuatu after renouncing his Indian citizenship. As the results rolled out Monday, a BJP neta raised Mishra's disappearance.

HC quashes FIR against HDFC Bank CEO in Lilavati hosp trust row

Mumbai: The Bombay high court on Tuesday quashed an FIR filed by Lilavati Hospital Trust against HDFC Bank CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan, 61, for alleged offences of cheating and criminal breach of trust after the bank began recovery proceedings. The HC, in similar relief, quashed FIRs against three others too, who like Jagdishan had filed quashing petitions last year. The HC denied a plea by the trust, called the Lilavati Kirtilal Mehta Medical Trust, for transfer of the criminal probe to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The HC said, "There is serious acrimony, distrust and strained relations to the core between the erstwhile trustees and present trustees. When the new trustees took over, several recovery proceedings had already been initiated. Even today dues to the extent of Rs 65 cores are yet to be recovered." The HC dubbed the complaint a "a fallout of" and a "counterblast to" "recovery proceedings initiated by the financial institutions."

"A personal vendetta writ large on the face of proceedings for recovery is something which we strongly perceive as a reason for interference," the HC division bench of Justices M S Karnik and N R Borkar held. But the HC refrained from "expressing any opinion so far as the allegations made against rest of the accused (erstwhile trustees)."

Jagdishan's senior counsel Amit Desai argued that the criminal proceedings initiated by a trustee against the HDFC CEO was a "gross abuse of process of law" intended to "harass him and tarnish the bank's reputation." TNN

SC: Bail must if speedy trial right is breached, even in serious crimes

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New Delhi: Supreme Court has appealed to courts to consider granting bail to accused in case of delay in trial, irrespective of gravity of offence, as right of speedy trial is a fundamental right.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Vijay Bishnoi granted bail to a murder accused on that ground, noting he had been in jail for the last four years and not a single witness had been examined in trial proceedings.

"We are mindful of the fact that the petitioner is charged with the offence of murder, but time and again, we have said howsoever serious the crime may be, if the right of speedy trial is infringed, then the court must consider the plea for bail appropriately. Here is a case wherein past almost four years, the petitioner is in jail, but not a single witness has been examined," the bench said. "We order that the petitioner be released on bail forthwith, if not required in any other case, subject to terms and conditions that the trial court may deem fit to impose," it said.

The top court recently expressed shock over an undertrial prisoner languishing in jail for nine year while trial was still underway.

The Supreme Court granted him bail without seeking a response from the UP govt. The apex court had said it was a gross case wherein the fundamental right of the petitioner to have a speedy trial as enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution could be said to have been infringed.

"In many of our judgments and on many occasions, we have said in so many words that howsoever grave the crime may be, but if the accused is denied his right of speedy trial and is languishing in jail for years together and for no fault on his part, he cannot be kept in jail for indefinite period," the court had said.

Envoy to US hits out at NYT for op-ed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Indian ambassador to the US, **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**, slammed an op-ed piece in NYT, which expressed concern about the situation in India, saying the opinion expressed was prejudiced and partisan.

Kwatra said that describing "well intentioned efforts" aimed at protecting against viral misinformation and possible harm to Indian society under India's IT Rules as "censorship" makes for a catchy headline, but is a lazy argument.

Expansion would cost govt around ₹15 crore per annum

▶ Continued from page 1

This was arrived at after an assessment by a three-judge committee set up by the CJI. People aware of the development said at present, there are over 1,200 cases pending before three-judge bench, over 160 before five-judge bench, around three dozens before seven-judge bench and around 45 before nine-judge bench. The expansion would cost govt around Rs 15 crore per annum, which will be met from the Consolidated Fund of India. Govt will bring a bill to amend the law to increase the strength of judges.

In an official release, the govt said that Article 124(1) of Constitution provides for a Supreme Court consisting of a CJI and such number of judges as Parliament may prescribe. It added that the strength of judges in SC has been increased multiple times since the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act was enacted in 1956, which had initially capped it at 10 (excluding the CJI).

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, BANGALORE - 560 064
WEBSITE www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
e-mail:smm.rwfblr@gmail.com

E - TENDER NOTICE
No: RWF/M/OT/AFS/2026-27/07
dtd. 30/04/2026

E - TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender in Two packet system for the following work online through the website http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works) **Tender No:** RWF/M/OT/AFS/2026-27/07 **Name of the work:** Outsourcing the work of operation of the New Axle Forging Line (including consumables)" for a quantity of 1, 80,000 axles for a period two years **Estimated Cost in Rs.** 14,20,03,800.00 **Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.** 28,40,100.00 **Date & Time of Closing of Tenders:** 22/05/2026 at 10.30 Hrs **Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid:** To be notified later **Completion Period:** 24 Months
This tender notice and eligibility criteria can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

DY. CME/AP

MADHYA PRADESH RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(An Agency of Panchayat & Rural Development Department, Govt. of M.P.)
3rd Floor, Vikas Bhawan, Arera Hills, Bhopal (M.P.)
(GST No. : 23AAATM9054A3ZX)
No.4361/22/D-12/Brg.DPR/2026 Bhopal, Dated : 04.05.2026

DPR CONSULTANCY OF BRIDGES
(Short Time E-Procurement Notice)

Online Bids are invited from the reputed Consultants for preparation of DPR of Bridge under PMGSY-IV/DAJGUA as per details given below :-

- **No. of Packages** - 37
- **Nodal PIU** - Betul, Raisen, Guna, Barwani, Burhanpur, Dhar-1, Dhar-2, Jhabua, Khandwa, Khargone, Chhindwara, Pandhurna, Satna, Waidhan, Damoh, Dewas, Ratlam & Shajapur.
- **No. of Bridges** - 571

Total Estimated Construction Cost (in Rs.) – Rs. 11463559200.00

- **Cost of Bid Document, Bid Security (EMD) and service charges as appearing on e-procurement portal are to be paid simultaneously through Debit Card/Credit Card/Internet Banking or system generated challan. For detailed procedure of online payment of EMD and submission of affidavit please refer condition number 2 of detailed NIT.**

1. RFP document may be seen, downloaded and purchased from our e-procurement website **https://mptenders.gov.in from 17:30 hrs on 07.05.2026**.
2. Last date of Submission of bid is **01.06.2026 upto 12.30 hrs.**

Other details & Conditions may be seen in the detailed NIT and Tender Document for preparation of DPR of Bridges under PMGSY April 2026 amended up to date on our Website **http://mptenders.gov.in**.

M.P. Madhyam/125612/2026 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (TENDER)

"मेरी सड़क" ऐप डाउनलोड कर, फीडबैक देकर राष्ट्र के विकास में सहयोग दें।

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF URBAN MANAGEMENT,
Municipal Administration Department, Govt. of Telangana

Tender Notice

File No. E943335/NIUM/2026 Date: 05.05.2026

NIUM, Hyd., is inviting tenders for engaging an agency "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) For Empanelment of Architectural & Engineering Consultants - Development of NIUM Campus in BFCA Area, Telangana". Tender is being floated on the TG e-procurement site. Tender id-698847. Tender opens from 05.05.2026 and last date for bid submission is 12.05.2026.

Further details can be viewed it under www.nium.org.in and https://tender.telangana.gov.in

R.O. No. : 100-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt: 05.05.2026 ED, NIUM

25001/89/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address- serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
No. Tender Online - RWCCESNG-02 of 2026-27, Letter No- 2393/Dtd. 30.04.2026
e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work : Bridge Works (SBY)
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender on-line for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of Tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-02 of 2026-27	08.05.2026 11:00 AM	26.05.2026 5:00 PM	25.05.2026 5:00 PM	28.05.2026 11:00 AM	Will be intimated Separately

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/- **Chief Construction Engineer**
Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh
OIPR-25001/25133/1/26-27/0004

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No.: MECHCKP-26-27-06, Dated: 01.05.2026. For & on behalf of President of India, Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur invites E-Tender under Two Packet System for the under mentioned work. Manual offers are not allowed against the tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of work:** Mechanised cleaning of coaches of nominated enroute trains at Rourkela station under Clean Train station (CTS) scheme for two years. **Tender Value:** ₹ 7,94,23,482.28. **Bid Security:** ₹ 5,47,100. **Cost of Tender Form:** ₹ 10,000. **Place of opening of tender:** Office of the Sr. DME, South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur. **Date and time of closing of tender:** 15.00 hrs. of 25.05.2026. Tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer/bidder must have Class-III digital signature certificate & must be registered under IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. (PR-122)

सार्वजनिक सूचना
विज्ञप्ति

बिड संख्या	– GEM/2026/B/7446258
वस्तु श्रेणी	– Solar Based New Model Charkha
प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	– दिनांक 24.04.2026 सायं 05.39 बजे
बंद होने की तिथि एवं समय	– दिनांक 15.05.2026 सायं 05.00 बजे
बिड खुलने की तिथि एवं समय	– दिनांक 15.05.2026 सायं 05.30 बजे
प्रोडक्ट	– सोलर बेस्ड 12 तकला न्यू माडल चर्खा
संख्या	– 600 नग

इच्छुक निर्माता/आपूर्तिकर्ता जेम पोर्टल पर नियमानुसार बिड शर्तों के अनुरूप आवेदन कर सकते हैं।
(विशेष-जेम सेल द्वारा बिड समय अवधि कम करने की स्थिति में बिड तदनुसार खोली जाएगी)
दिनांक : 24.04.2026 आज्ञा से
मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी
उ0प्र0 खादी तथा ग्रामोद्योग बोर्ड,
8-तिलक मार्ग, लखनऊ

MADHYA PRADESH - A MODEL OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Madhya Pradesh's approach towards women empowerment is evolving into a framework of participation, inclusion and greater financial independence, positioning women as active contributors to the state's social and economic development

India's Nari Shakti has made immense contributions. Women have played a key role from the freedom struggle to nation-building. They have created their own legacy.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Forging new paradigms of women's empowerment, Madhya Pradesh has carved a distinct identity for itself at the national level by scripting numerous success stories. The sustained efforts undertaken by the state government have empowered women, making them self-reliant and economically independent.

EXPANDING REPRESENTATION AND FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

Chief minister, Dr. Mohan Yadav has promised to empower women in all spheres of governance and development. Realizing prime minister Narendra Modi's mantra of 'Sankalp se Siddhi', chief minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has worked tirelessly to make the 'Ladli Bahanas' self-reliant and empowered.

The campaign to facilitate women to join the process of economic transformation is now bearing fruit.

Many states have drawn inspiration from Madhya Pradesh toward women's empowerment. Through the 'Ladli Bahana Yojana', a monthly financial assistance of Rs. 1,500 is being transferred directly into the bank accounts of approximately 1.29 crore Ladli Behna. This unique initiative for women's empowerment serves as an exemplary model for other states and is being emulated elsewhere.

PICS: GOVT. OF MP

IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES

Madhya Pradesh has achieved victory in the fight against malnourishment among women and children. Comparative data from the National Family Health Survey III clearly demonstrates the sincerity with which the state government has waged its battle against malnutrition and the successes achieved. The upgradation, maintenance and operation of Anganwadi centers have consistently remained a top priority for the state government. Taking this objective further, the cabinet led by chief minister Dr. Yadav, has decided to upgrade 12,670 'Mini Anganwadi Centers' across the state to the status of full-fledged 'Anganwadi Centers'.

To facilitate this, a total of 13,146 new posts have been sanctioned, comprising 476 posts for supervisors and 12,670 posts for Anganwadi assistants.

STRENGTHENING GRASSROOTS CARE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Child Health and Nutrition Mission, has formulated numerous schemes. Special 'Mangal Divas' (Auspicious Days) are observed at Anganwadi centers. Furthermore, under the 'Chief Minister's Child Health Promotion Programme' implemented in collaboration with AIIMS, care is being provided to severely malnourished children. Currently, 73.4 lakh beneficiary women are registered under the Aadhaar system. The sex ratio has improved from 927 to 956. Additionally, there has been a significant decline in instances of child marriage.

IMPROVING SOCIAL INDICATORS ACROSS COMMUNITIES

'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' has served as the state government's guiding mantra. In line with this mission, bicycles are being distributed to girls for commuting to school and scooters are being provided for college-going students, thereby ensuring that they face no obstacles in accessing their education. The cabinet has approved Rs. 990 crore for the continuation of the Free Bicycle Scheme.

GROWING ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND MOBILITY

The state government has taken upon itself the responsibility of bearing the expenses for daughters preparing for examinations such as NEET, JEE, Chartered Accountants (CA), etc., ensuring that parents do not have economic burden. Upon enrolling in undergraduate or vocational courses after completing the 12th grade, daughters are provided all possible assistance by the state government.

STRENGTHENING SAFETY AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Prioritizing women's safety as a top priority, the state government is consistently working to provide assistance during emergencies. 'One Stop Centers' are operational across all districts. A testament to the success of the programmes and campaigns for women's empowerment is the fact that, in the implementation of the 'Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana' (PMMVY), Madhya Pradesh has secured the first position at the national level for five consecutive years, from the inception of the scheme through the year 2022-23.

STRIVING FOR WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT

Madhya Pradesh state legislative assembly passed a historic resolution in a special session on April 27, 2026 regarding Nari Shakti Vandan Act 2023 expressing resolve to ensure 33% reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies. Addressing the day-long session, chief minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said the state government honours women and their entrepreneurship. The number of Lok Sabha seats would have increased from 543 to 850 to ensure 33% representation for women. The special session passed a resolution supporting one-third reservation for women in Parliament and all legislative assemblies.

WOMEN DRIVING GROWTH ACROSS SECTORS IN MADHYA PRADESH

- Unquestionably, Madhya Pradesh has become a model for women's empowerment.
- Over 65 lakh women have achieved self-reliance through more than 5 lakh Self-Help Groups. Initiatives such as "Drone Didi" and "Bank Sakhi" are helping women advance economically.
- More than 1.25 crore women under the Ladli Behna Yojana receiving R. 1,500 per month
- Each Ladli Behan getting Rs. 40 thousand
- Women lead more than 48% of startups
- Over 10 lakh women are associated with the MSMEs.
- More than 50,000 women employed in power sector.
- In police department, over 22,500 recruitments are planned in the next three years.
- In several industries, up to 90% of jobs are being reserved for women.
- Between 2022 and 2025, out of 62,881 candidates selected for Govt. jobs, 24,906 were women (39.61%).
- In Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission recruitments from 2021–2026, women secured 4,454 out of 15,802 posts (39.27%), exceeding the 35% reservation.
- Currently, 6 women MPs represent the state in the Lok Sabha, 27 women are MLAs and 5 women ministers are serving in the state government.
- Women also hold key administrative roles, with 17 districts being headed by women officers.
- Dropout rate declines to zero.

PRIORITISING WOMEN'S HEALTH THROUGH POLICY INTERVENTIONS

Madhya Pradesh's approach to women empowerment in the health sector is increasingly being shaped by a lifecycle-based framework, linking maternal care with long-term well-being. The focus is not only on improving health indicators, but on enabling women to lead healthier, more secure lives and participate more actively in development.

A key pillar of this approach is maternal and child health. Initiatives such as *Matrushishu Sanjeevan Abhiyaan* (2025) aim to deliver holistic, evidence-based care, supported by programmes like PMSMA, under which over 58.63 lakh pregnant women have been examined since 2016.

High-risk pregnancies are being tracked through the SUMAN programme, supported by integrated monitoring systems across major health institutions.

STRENGTHENING MATERNAL CARE

Anaemia Mukt Bharat and advanced treatment protocols

8.08 lakh pregnant women screened for sickle cell

Efforts to improve outcomes are supported through targeted interventions

229 birth waiting homes for high-risk cases

123 facilities offering ultrasound services

Financial support schemes continue to play a key role:

Janani Suraksha Yojana: **₹1,018+ crore to 74.75 lakh** beneficiaries

Mukhyamantri Prasuti Sahayata Yojana: **₹3,993+ crore to 47.45 lakh** women

TECHNOLOGY AND EXPANDED CARE

Digital systems such as the **ANMOL 2.0 portal and Suman Sakhi chatbot** are improving tracking, awareness and service delivery. Alongside maternal care, the state has expanded screening for cervical and breast cancer, while covering **73.76 lakh** women under sickle cell screening.

CHILD HEALTH SYSTEMS

Investments in newborn and child-care include:

62 newborn care units and **200** stabilisation units

67 paediatric ICUs and **318** nutrition centres

Large-scale outreach through programmes like **Dastak and SAANS**

Under Mission Indradhanush, over **10.14 lakh** pregnant women and **37.77 lakh** children have been immunised.

Efforts are translating into measurable outcomes

Maternal mortality reduced from **188** to **142**

Under-five mortality reduced from **62** to **44**

Neonatal mortality reduced from **34** to **27**

MP'S MSME POLICY 2025 PROMOTES WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Madhya Pradesh has effectively realized prime minister Narendra Modi's vision of women empowerment, entrepreneurship, and "Vocal for Local."

Under the leadership of chief minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, the MSME Development Policy 2025 and the Start-up Policy 2025 have played a crucial role in transforming women into entrepreneurs.

Due to strong policy support and adequate representation of women in state initiatives, out of 24.34 lakh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Madhya Pradesh, about 4.11 lakh units (17%) are operated by women. During the Global Investors Summit last year, the Start-up Policy inaugurated by prime minister Narendra Modi revealed that 3,476 out of 7,264 startups (48%) are led by women. This demonstrates that the vision of women empowerment and Atmanirbhar Bharat is becoming a reality in the state.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR WOMEN

The MSME Policy 2025 includes special provisions to encourage women entrepreneurs. Women investing in plant and machinery are eligible for capital subsidies of up to 48% on investments up to ₹10 crore.

- For scheduled caste and scheduled tribe women, the subsidy is up to 50%
- For the general category, it is up to 40%
- By March 2026, out of over 24.34 lakh MSME units, approximately 4.11 lakh enterprises have been established by women.

BOOST THROUGH START-UP POLICY

Under the Start-up Policy and Implementation Plan 2025, startups founded by women are eligible for 18% financial assistance.

- Up to ₹18 lakh per tranche
- Total assistance up to ₹72 lakh
- For other startups, the limit is 15% or ₹15 lakh.
- Out of 7,264 recognized startups, 3,476 (48%) are run by women entrepreneurs.

These initiatives by the Madhya Pradesh Government are enabling women to achieve new heights in empowerment and self-reliance.

FOREST-BASED LIVELIHOODS BRING RELIEF TO TRIBAL WOMEN

Under the leadership of chief minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, the state government has taken decisive steps to bring meaningful change in the lives of women tendu leaf collectors. The government remains fully committed to ensuring economic upliftment of women who earn their livelihoods by collecting tendu leaves. These initiatives are translating the spirit of 'Nari Shakti Vandan' into reality on the ground.

Tendu leaf collection rate has been increased from ₹3,000 to ₹4,000 per standard bag. As a result, a total remuneration of approximately ₹708.8 crore has been disbursed, out of which women collectors have directly received about ₹344.5 crore. This increase is not only aimed at enhancing income but also at providing rural and tribal women with a dignified economic identity. A total bonus of ₹132.42 crore has been distributed to collectors, with women receiving approximately ₹64.36 crore.

These initiatives are not only increasing women's income but also boosting their confidence, dignity and social standing. Women play a crucial role in tendu leaf collection. Out of nearly 40 lakh collectors, around 19 lakh are women, accounting for nearly 48.6 per cent participation. This highlights that the sector is not just a source of forest-based livelihood, but also a major avenue for women's economic self-reliance.

KEY MILESTONES

DEVI AHILYA WOMEN EMPOWERMENT MISSION

- Launched with the objective of overall socio-economic development of women.

CHIEF MINISTER LADLI BEHNA SCHEME

- More than **12.5 million women** beneficiaries receiving **₹1,500** per month.
- Over **₹54,000 crore** disbursed from June 2023 to March 2026.

PRADHAN MANTRI MATRU VANDANA YOJANA

- Around **970,000** beneficiaries registered and **₹512 crore** disbursed between December 2023 and March 2025.
- Over **50 lakh women** registered since the scheme's launch.

JANANI SURAKSHA YOJANA

- **₹79 crore** disbursed to **600,000 beneficiaries.**
- Under sanitation and hygiene initiatives, over **₹61.12 crore** transferred to more than **20 lakh** girls for sanitary pads.

MISSION VATSALYA

- Approval to continue the non-institutional care scheme for the next five years, providing **₹4,000** per month per eligible child.

SUMAN SAKHI CHATBOT

- Launched under the *Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan* to raise awareness about maternal and child health.

CHIEF MINISTER LADLI LAXMI SCHEME

- More than **52 lakh** registered since the scheme's inception.
- Scholarships worth **₹776 crore** provided to over **13.8 lakh** registered girls.

PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA

- **89 lakh** free LPG connections provided across three phases.

WOMEN SELF-HELP GROUPS (SHGS)

- Assistance of over **₹10,560 crore** provided.
- **62 lakh** rural women became self-reliant through **500,000** SHGs.
- Under the "Lakhpati Didi" scheme, more than **12 lakh** women now earn over **₹1 lakh** annually.

CHIEF MINISTER GAS CYLINDER REFILL SCHEME

- Eligible women (PMUY and non-PMUY) receiving LPG refills at **₹450.**
- Over **₹11,080.89 crore** transferred to more than **29 lakh** beneficiaries for refills.

NAMO DRONE DIDI SCHEME

- Women trained as drone pilots and provided drones for agricultural services like spraying fertilizers and pesticides.
- **89 women** trained so far.

PRADHAN MANTRI MUDRA YOJANA

- Provides loans to non-corporate, non-agricultural micro and small enterprises, significantly supporting women's self-reliance.

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN MSMES

- Madhya Pradesh MSME Development Policy 2025 includes special provisions for women entrepreneurs, offering up to **48%** subsidy on investments up to **₹10 crore.**
- Startup Policy 2025 provides **18%** financial assistance on capital investment for women-led startups.
- **47%** of the state's **200,000** MSMEs are led by women.
- **275 crore** transferred to **850** MSME units to promote women entrepreneurship.
- Decision to provide **₹5,000** per month as incentive for each woman worker in the readymade garment industry.

CHIEF MINISTER KANYA VIVAH/NIKAH SCHEME

- Benefits provided to over **42,600** beneficiaries and **750 under Kalyani Vivah.**
- Around **₹250 crore** disbursed.

WOMEN RESERVATION

- Reservation in government services increased to **35%.**
- **20%** increase in honorarium for elected representatives in urban local bodies.

WORKING WOMEN HOSTELS

- *Hostels established in four industrial areas:* ***Vikram Udyogpuri, Pithampur*** (Sector 1 & 2), **Malanpur-Ghirongi,** and **Mandideep.**
- Additional hostels approved in **Jhabua, Singrauli, Dewas** and **Narmadapuram.**

INSURANCE SCHEMES

- Decision to provide insurance coverage under **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana** and **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana** to **Anganwadi workers, mini Anganwadi workers** and helpers.

ANGANWADI CENTRES

- **12,670 mini Anganwadi** centres to be upgraded to full centres and **549** new centres approved.

AHILYABAI BATTALION

- Police Battalion No. 1 in Indore renamed as **Ahilyabai Battalion.**

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENTS

- Recruitment of **2,027** Anganwadi workers and **17,477** helpers through the selection portal; appointment orders issued to **1,091** workers and **10,984** helpers.
- Filling of **560** supervisor posts and **61** statistical investigator posts.

D-19016/26

GLP-ersonality: When weight loss drugs weigh on behaviour

Docs see patients reporting irritability and loss of drive. The answer may lie in dopamine, the brain's reward system

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesofindia.com

"I don't feel like doing anything now — I just sit quietly."

This 60-year-old retired govt teacher from Delhi has been on GLP-1 drugs for more than a year to manage diabetes. The marked appetite loss was expected, but as the months went by, irritability set in along with lethargy and subsequent lack of motivation to do even routine activities. To those who knew her, it seemed like a personality change. A six-month gap in medication while she was in the US briefly lifted her spirits. But as her blood sugar, and weight, rose, she went back to her semaglutide medication. That shed the kilos, but the symptoms returned.

A 58-year-old Chennai resident who started weight loss drugs seemed to "always feel low on battery" as the weeks went by. Brisk walks he once enjoyed began to feel like a burden. His weight dropped a good 8kg, but higher doses brought nausea and weakness. Only after upping protein intake and adjusting GLP-1 dose did he begin to feel "normal" again. A 68-year-old CA from Delhi continues to work long hours while on GLP-1 drugs, but admits to feeling "lethargic", with a tendency to delay tasks.

WHEN EMOTIONS FALL FLAT

Though such cases aren't rampant, doctors are beginning to see a pattern. Some patients describe a quiet dulling of response — not just to food but to everyday pleasures, manifesting as a general lack of enthusiasm. Meals feel less appealing, as do conversations, hobbies and the urge to step out. The shift is subtle, often hard to pin down, but consistent enough to raise questions about how these drugs may be influencing behaviour.

"It could be anhedonia, which is a broad loss of pleasure across multiple aspects of life — not just reduced interest in food," points out Dr Rajesh Sagar, professor of psychiatry at AIIMS, Delhi, attributing it to the possible influence of GLP-1 drugs on dopamine-related reward pathways in the brain that go beyond appetite control. "It's biologically plausible, but not yet proven. These drugs act not only on the pancreas and gut but also on brain regions linked to reward and behaviour," he says.

While anhedonia could be a symptom of depression, Chennai-based diabetologist Dr V Mohan insists what these GLP-1 patients are feeling is more tiredness and reduced drive than depression. "Patients often report low energy and a reluctance to get up or do anything. A few even say they don't feel like talking or engaging with others. In my experience, these symptoms are often reversible. Adjusting the dose, improving nutrition or increasing protein intake has helped several patients regain energy. And many others report the opposite effect — better mood and confidence after losing weight," he says.

Dr Ambrish Mithal, head of endocrinology and diabetes at Max Healthcare explains that since GLP-1 drugs act on brain circuits that shape cravings and pleasure, they reduce the enjoyment from food which automatically helps with weight loss. "But in some people, that effect can extend further, with some patients reporting less excitement or enjoyment in daily life. It's more of a numbing of emotions than depression," he says, adding that such cases are uncommon and usually manageable with dose changes or monitoring. Dr Sagar says fatigue after starting GLP-1 drugs is often drug-related if it appears soon after initiation or dose increase, and is linked to side effects like nausea, poor intake or dehydration.

> What these patients are feeling is more tiredness and reduced drive than depression. These symptoms are often reversible
>
> **Dr V Mohan,** DIABETOLOGIST

MOOD NEEDS MONITORING

It's difficult to separate cause and effect when multiple conditions overlap, says Dr Ravinder Goswami, a senior endocrinologist at AIIMS. "Obesity, anxiety and low mood often coexist. Each can influence the other. It becomes a chicken-and-egg question — what leads to what is not always clear."

A June 2024 study published in Innovations in Clinical Neuroscience reported a case where a 54-year-old woman with diabetes and a history of depression had been given semaglutide once a week. After a month, she showed irritability, anxiety, and a loss of interest in activities she used to enjoy. When it began to interfere with daily life, she was taken off the drug. Her mood improved and over the next few weeks, she began feeling like herself again. The researchers couldn't pinpoint whether her symptoms were owing to "pre-existing susceptibility" or "triggered by primary effects on mood by semaglutide". They concluded that while prescribing GLP-1 drugs, doctors should keep in mind the "potential risk of negative mood changes and monitor patients closely".

Dr Sagar insists that all patients on GLP-1 therapy should be monitored for mood or behavioural changes, especially those with prior psychiatric illness or body-image concerns. "Psychiatric referral is needed if there are suicidal thoughts, worsening depression, social withdrawal or major behavioural changes," he says.

Dr Goswami says we shouldn't be drawing conclusions too soon as current evidence is still evolving and large, long-term studies involving thousands of patients are needed. These should ideally compare patients with and without pre-existing mental health conditions and track outcomes over time. Till then, doctors must rely on clinical judgement. He also cautions against casual use. "These medicines should be reserved for patients with clear medical need — such as obesity linked to diabetes, hypertension or heart disease — and not for cosmetic weight loss. Lifestyle measures, especially regular physical activity, remain essential."

AWARENESS, NOT ALARM

Emerging research also suggests GLP-1 drugs have a possible protective effect on mental health. A recent study in The Lancet Psychiatry, involving about 95,000 people with diabetes or obesity, found that those on semaglutide were less likely to see their depression or anxiety worsen, with a lower risk of substance use disorders and self-harm. Another published in the BMJ, based on over 600,000 patients, showed people on GLP-1 drugs had reduced risks of addictions — including alcohol, nicotine and opioids. However, researchers caution that the results show association, not direct cause, and more clinical trials are needed.

Doctors say it's not one-sided. For many, these drugs improve physical and mental health. For a smaller group, they may bring fatigue or a subtle emotional dulling. The key is awareness — not alarm. Patients shouldn't stop medication on their own. Any shift in mood, energy or behaviour should be discussed with a doctor. In most cases, small adjustments can make a huge difference.

HOW DRUG TAKES AWAY DOPAMINE PRIZE

GLP-1 drugs can dampen brain's dopamine pathways that regulate key physiological and behavioural processes like these:

- **Pleasure:** GLP-1 receptors are found in Nucleus Accumbens (brain's primary pleasure centre). Suppressing dopamine signalling can potentially cause anhedonia, which reduces ability to feel pleasure from activities one used to enjoy
- **Reward:** Highs of daily life may begin to fall flat, numbing emotions. Some may lose interest in hobbies, social interactions, other non-food rewards
- **Drive:** 'Get-up-and-go' motivation declines, bringing on reluctance to perform physically and mentally demanding tasks
- **Daily function:** Reward system is closely tied to prefrontal cortex, so significant changes in dopamine levels can sometimes affect focus & ability to plan or execute goal-oriented tasks

Image: AI

TIPS, TRENDS & TECH

KNOW YOUR VITAL STATS

Move over, gummies. There's enough magnesium in daily diet

Magnesium is now most popular among supplements for its ability to improve sleep quality. It has several other health benefits, from blood sugar control to better bone and heart health. But you don't need a pill, powder or gummy to get your daily dose. Here's how you can get enough from your diet

Daily need

Common foods with more of it:

Pumpkin seeds (1 ounce)	156mg	37% of daily need
Chia seeds (1 ounce)	111mg	26%
Dry roasted almond (1 ounce)	80mg	19%
Boiled spinach (1/2 cup)	78mg	19%
Dry roasted cashew (1 ounce)	74mg	18%
Roasted peanuts (1/4 cup)	63mg	15%
Cooked black beans (1/2 cup)	60mg	14%

Magnesium helps with...

Less stress, better sleep: Regulates central nervous system & stress-response systems. Also helps produce 'sleep hormone' melatonin

More energy, better metabolism: Helps create, use primary energy carrier molecule in cells. Helps break down glucose, fats into energy

Healthy heart, glucose control: A natural calcium blocker, it helps blood vessels relax. Aids insulin sensitivity with glucose transport

Muscle function, movement: Relaxes muscle, prevents contractions or spasms. Supports movement & spatial awareness

Better bone density: Skeleton has around 60% of body's magnesium. Contributes to structural matrix of bone tissue and influences bone remodeling

> **The body has clever ways to try to hold on to magnesium better. But even if you don't have a deficiency, if you have a poor dietary intake of magnesium, you can still be at increased risk of cardiovascular disease, insulin resistance and high blood pressure**
>
> **Bethany Marie Doerfler,** DIETITIAN, NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE DIGESTIVE HEALTH CENTER, CHICAGO

Source: The Washington Post

Email your feedback to **toihealth.plus@timesofindia.com** with Health Plus in the subject line. Please mention your name and city

DANCE *of* DEMOCRACY

Iron barrier falls, road to Didi's home open to public

Police Presence Scaled Down For Abhishek

Tamaghna Banerjee & Saikat Ray | TNN

Sudipto Das

Scissor barricades, that once cut roads into controlled corridors, have now been shifted to the edges

Kolkata: Crown gone. Fortress laid bare. Less than 24 hours after BJP's Bengal sweep — and shocking defeat of Mamata Banerjee in bastion Bhowanipore — a quieter, but equally symbolic, shift unfolded on the streets.

The elaborate security grid that for years defined the approach to Didi's home at 30B Harish Chatterjee Street in nearby Kalighat began to dissolve with striking speed. Along Harish Chatterjee Street, near Hazra crossing, metal scissor barricades that once carved the road into controlled corridors were dragged aside and stacked along the edges.

The police personnel who regulated entry, stopping residents and passers-by for questioning, were conspicuously absent by morning.

For locals, the transformation was immediate, almost disorienting. "We had to slow down, answer questions and carry Aadhaar cards. Relatives had to take detours and we often alerted the cops in advance about their arrival," said a neighbour of Mamata.

Tarun Chatterjee, another resident of the lane, rubbed his eyes in disbelief. "When I was passing by Didi's house today, I couldn't believe my eyes. The usual hustle and bustle were missing. Then I saw bikes and cars moving freely. As I drove past Mamata's house, no one questioned me," he said.

Narrow alleys connecting Harish Chatterjee Street to Kalighat Road — long sealed off in the name of security — were also reopened, restoring routes that remained inaccessible for years. "It was difficult for us to enter our own homes because of the high-profile security. While we feel sad for our VVIP resident, we are also relieved," said Sudip Karmakar, another resident.

Not far away, security layers were peeled off outside the home of Mamata's nephew Abhishek Banerjee, who is TMC general secretary and MP. Police deployment was also scaled down outside Abhishek's office on Camac Street in central Kolkata.

The rollback of this security architecture, built since Mamata's second term in 2016, came on the heels of a political upset few had anticipated. For more than 15 years, Bhowanipore was the unshakeable TMC fortress, where electoral contests often felt like formalities.

In Kerala, hunt for consensus amid 3-way tussle for CM

▶Continued from P 1

Ramesh Chennithala, a former opposition face and multiple-term legislator, is pressing his case on experience and seniority.

Satheesan has the support of Indian Union Muslim League (22 seats), strengthening his pitch as the consensus face. Chennithala has said seniority must weigh heavily in the choice. Venugopal's camp claimed a sizeable bloc of MLAs and MPs is in its corner.

Congress, with 63 seats in the 140-member assembly, is the largest party in UDF that unseated CPM-led LDF's two-term govt. UDF won 102 seats, while LDF managed 35. The challenge now is political arithmetic within Congress — balancing claims, preventing fissures and ensuring a smooth swearing-in.

Congress brass has kept options open, focusing on consensus. A meeting chaired by party president Mallikarjun Kharge, with Rahul present, is set to appoint AICC observers.

Pressure is building for a quick call. Party insiders warned that picking a compromise name outside the main contenders could trigger a backlash, with both Satheesan and Chennithala camps unlikely to accept a diminished role in cabinet formation under such a scenario.

AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh said a decision would come soon amid efforts to forge unanimity.

The triangular contest has deepened fault lines. Venugopal's backers cited organisational heft and central backing. Satheesan's camp mentioned public acceptability and his role in the victory. Chennithala has reminded Congress that Satheesan's elevation as opposition leader in 2021 went against prevailing sentiment, underlining the central role in leadership calls. Congress said allies' views will be heard but it is under no compulsion to yield ground, given its numbers.

We haven't lost... CEC looted electoral process, says Mamata

▶Continued from P 1

Mamata Banerjee said, "We haven't lost. We have been forcibly defeated. Our fight was not against BJP, we were fighting against EC. The chief election commissioner was the villain of this election. He looted democracy and the electoral process. This is murder of democracy."

Asked if she would resign, she shot back, "Morally, we have won the election. Why should I resign?"

"This was like a fixed match — a set-up by EC and BJP. There was direct interference from the Union home minister and Prime Minister. They played a mischievous game," she alleged. A 15-member committee of TMC MPs and MLAs will probe the alleged irregularities.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra described the TMC chief's refusal to resign as an "attack on Constitution and its architect, B R Ambedkar".

"When a CM or Prime Minister loses, they resign. Transfer of power has always taken place peacefully in India for 75 years. But what Mamata Banerjee has said and done, I must say with regret that this tradition has been hurt. This is not an attack on BJP but on democracy," the BJP spokesperson said.

Former Bengal advocate-general Jayanta Mitra said, "The CM came to office with the sanction of people. If she loses people's confidence, she has to resign. The governor can dismiss her under Article 164 of Constitution (if she does not quit)."

BJP's Suvendu Adhikari, who defeated Banerjee in her home turf Bhowanipore, said, "Everything is mentioned in the Constitution. I need not say much."

BJP spokesperson Debjit Sarkar said, "Such a joke does not merit any response. We do not want to waste a word on those who have no respect for the Constitution."

Saumitra Mohan named Guv secretary

In the first major administrative shake-up following the assembly elections, Bengal govt has appointed Saumitra Mohan as the new secretary to the governor even as Advocate General Kishore Datta tendered his resignation. Mohan's appointment on May 4 signals a strategic realignment of the state's top bureaucracy as a new govt prepares to take office. It coincides with broader shifts in state's legal and administrative framework. AG Kishore Datta tendered his resignation to the governor on Tuesday. While not legally mandated, such resignations are customary during regime changes to allow the incoming govt to appoint its own legal counsel. TNN

NDA tightens grip on big states as oppn presence shrinks in key battlegrounds

Kumar.Rakesh
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New Delhi: As the dust settles on assembly poll results, BJP-led NDA's dominance of India's political landscape has become crystal clear.

Of six heavyweight states with 278 Lok Sabha seats among them, which account for over half of Parliament's 543 seats, the governing alliance is now in office in five of them that have a combined LS strength of 239.

Since PM Narendra Modi led BJP to its maiden majority in 2014, BJP's position in these states was never so commanding as it is now, having its chief ministers in three of them, with Bengal soon to be a glittering addition to the list.

> **INDIA bloc has never been so feeble in battleground states which hold the key to parliamentary majority**

In contrast, INDIA bloc, now vanquished in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, has never been so feeble in battleground states which hold the key to parliamentary majority.

After the four biggest states — Uttar Pradesh (80), Maharashtra (48), West Bengal (42) and Bihar (40), all with BJP-led NDA in office, comes Tamil Nadu (39) where actor Vijay has led TVK to close to majority mark in 2026 assembly poll. He has been vocal in his opposition to BJP as well as DMK, a strong member of INDIA bloc. The sixth state is the BJP stronghold of Madhya Pradesh with 29 seats.

To be sure, Lok Sabha elections constitute a different battle altogether, and parties in office in states often fare poorly in parliamentary elections. In 2024, BJP was pushed to second position by SP-Congress alliance in Uttar Pradesh, while BJP came out on top in Congress-governed Karnataka. But unseating the incumbent while not governing any of the big states does become a herculean task for Opposition.

With elections due in UP early next year and in Madhya Pradesh in 2028, the arithmetic may still change if opposition parties manage to take down BJP in the Hindi-heartland states.

If the list is enlarged to include all 18 states with double-digit Lok Sabha tally, then their combined strength jumps to 502 in the 543-member House. On that list, Opposition does make its presence felt, but only just. It is in office in five states — Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Jharkhand and Punjab — which have a total of 92 seats.

Huddles & hurdles in TN as TVK reaches out to bridge gap

▶Continued from P 1

Vijay wrote to Tamil Nadu governor RV Arlekar on Tuesday asking to be invited as the single largest party to form govt and to hold the swearing-in Thursday.

Party sources said intermediaries have reached out to VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan and PMK leader Anbumani Ramadoss. The two parties have six seats. VCK, however, appeared wary. "Why should one leave one alliance for another? BJP won't allow a Congress-backed govt," a VCK politician said.

TVK, with 108 members, is 10 short of a simple majority. Its tally will drop to 107 after Vijay resigns the Trichy East seat on Wednesday. Congress has five MLAs. The Left parties, which have two seats each, have not received any invitation. "Let us see after TVK's decision. They have to take a stand," CPI state secretary M Veerapandian said.

Earlier, CPI, CPM, VCK, MDMK and IUML politicians met Stalin at DMK HQ where, DMK sources said, the allies reaffirmed their support. The AIADMK camp is also abuzz. After meeting AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, first-time MLA Leema Rose Martin told reporters that talks between TVK and AIADMK were underway. "I think it will end positively. It is going on smoothly," she said. However, senior AIADMK politician and former minister OS Manian ruled out support to TVK.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL — Sandeep Adhwaryu

UP uses facial recognition in nagar panchayat bypolls

Lucknow: Perhaps in a first in the country, UP's state election commission (SEC) formally introduced facial recognition system in local body elections Tuesday, **reports Arvind Chauhan**.

The technology is being tested as a pilot project during ongoing bypolls for nagar panchayat president in Katra (Shahjahanpur) and Fazilnagar nagar panchayat in Kushinagar. The system was deployed at 55 polling booths covering 31 wards to verify 50,257 registered voters.

The SEC intends to implement an enhanced version of the system across nearly 2.2 lakh polling booths in the upcoming local body elections.

Officials said that when voters arrive at the polling booth, their photograph is captured and matched in real time with both local booth records and a central server. This process helps immediately verify if a voter has already cast a vote elsewhere.

Bhopal civic body builds toilet near tracks, railways blocks access to reclaim its land

Bhopal: Municipal corporation of Bhopal in MP has courted controversy by building a new public toilet along tracks in Aishbagh, only to watch the railways fence off the facility and block access to reclaim its space. Residents say they had warned officials about the rail land and suggested an alternative site nearby for the toilet. They claim their concerns were ignored and construction went ahead. Asked about the problem, BMC executive superintendent engineer RR Jaroliya said the "matter would be investigated". TNN

3 dead, 2 critically injured after 'speeding' car crashes into parked crane in Himachal

Kullu: Three men were killed and two critically injured when their car rammed into a stationary hydraulic crane in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district late Monday. A police officer said the five men were travelling from Nerchowk towards Sundernagar when the driver lost control of the vehicle on Kiratpur-Manali highway , which slammed into the parked crane around 10.40pm. The car was mangled in the collision. Preliminary findings suggest speeding led to the accident, said an officer. TNN

HC: 'Honourable' for MPs, judges & ministers, but not civil servants

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

Prayagraj: Constitutional functionaries like members of parliament, judges of Supreme Court and high courts, central and state govt ministers, and presiding officers of parliament, assemblies and councils are entitled to "honourable" honorific, but not a civil servant, Allahabad high court has clarified.

Justices JJ Munir and Tarun Saxena in their April 30 order said there could be other similar functionaries who are entitled according to protocol, and whoever is entitled to the use of this honorific must be addressed likewise.

The HC's observation came during hearing of an FIR filed by one Khajan Singh who accused one Harshit Sharma of collecting bribes on the false promise of providing govt jobs. The court had taken exception to UP police failing to append "honourable" before Anurag Thakur, MP and former Union minister, in the FIR that alleged Harshit's close connections with Thakur.

On April 30, Khajan claimed he was unaware of the protocol regarding the use of honorifics. The HC accepted the reply.

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HEAD COACHES-13 Posts

S.No.	Disciplines	No.of Posts	S.No.	Disciplines	No.of Posts
1	Athletics	01	7	Judo	01
2	Badminton	01	8	Kho-Kho	01
3	Boxing	01	9	Lawn Tennis	01
4	Cycling	01	10	Rifle Shooting	01
5	Gymnastics	01	11	Water Sports	01
6	Hockey	01	12	Weightlifting	02

ASSISTANT COACHES-04 Posts

S.No.	Disciplines	No.of Posts	S.No.	Disciplines	No.of Posts
1	Badminton	01	3	Lawn Tennis	01
2	Judo	01	4	Rifle Shooting	01

Sd/-
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(To be delivered through Appellant) FPA-PMLA-4551/BNG/2022

The Branch Manager, Canara Bank ...Applicant
Versus
The Deputy Director, ED, Bangalore & Ors. ...Respondents

PUBLICATION NOTICE UNDER ORDER 5 OF RULE 20 CPC

1. **Respondent-2 :** M/s Sree Kanva Souharda, Cooperative Credit Limited, No. 861, Kanva Sri Sai Complex, Opp. Modi Hospital, West of Chord Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560086.
2. **Respondent-3 :** Shri N Nanjundiah, Founder and Director of M/s Sree Kanva Souharda, No. 408, A Block, Brigade Gate Way Apt. Dr. Raj Kumar 2nd Stage. Rajajinagar, Bangalore, North Malleshwaram.
3. **Respondent-4 :** M/s Kanva Fashions Limited, No. 861, Kanva Sri Sai Complex, Opp. Modi Hospital, West of Chord Road, Rajajinagar. Bangalore-560086.
4. **Respondent-5 :** Shri Harish S. President of Sree Kanva Souharda, No. 456, Janatha Colony, J R Nagar, Near Post Office, Banerghatta, Bangalore.
5. **Respondent-6 :** Smt. Praveena N. W/o Shri N. Nanjundaiah No. 408, A Block Brigade Gate Way Apt. Dr. Raj Kumar, 2nd Stage Rajajinagar, Bangalore, North Malleshwaram.
6. **Respondent-7 :** Mr. Kishore Kumar S/o Shri N. Nanjundaiah, No. 408, A Block Brigade Gate Way Apt. Dr. Raj Kumar 2nd Statge Rajajinagar, Bangalore, North Malleshwaram.

Notice in appeal no. FPA-PMLA-4551/BNG/2022 is issued on the direction of Hon'ble bench at Appellate Tribunal, 4th Floor, C-Wing, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi. Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Hon'ble bench that the respondents above named cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence, this proclamation under order 5 Rule 20 of CPC is hereby issued against them and should appear personally or through their counsel on **06.05.2026 at 11:00 AM** before Appellate Tribunal.
Take notice that, in default of appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in their absence.

By Order

ICTS INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THEORETICAL SCIENCES
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
An Autonomous Institute of the Department of Atomic Energy of Government of India and a Deemed to be University
No 151, Shivakote, Hessarghatta Hobli, Bengaluru (North)-560089, India, Tel : +91-80-46536000

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Advertisement No: ICTS-Notice-2026/02 Date: 06 May 2026

The Centre is looking for highly motivated and self-driven individuals for an appointment for the below post at its Bengaluru Campus.

Sl No.	Position	No. of posts	Upper age limit (as on 1st January 2026)	Consolidated Monthly Emoluments
1	Clerk Trainee	02	28	22,000

Candidates should report for the selection process on **Friday, 15 May 2026, at 10:00 am** with a copy of their CV and relevant original certificates stating their educational qualifications and experience along with a photocopy of these documents. For more information, please visit the website **www.icts.res.in.**

Establishment Section

K RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
BENGALURU SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT
Regd. Office: K-RIDE, Samparka Soudha, 1st Floor, Opp. Orion Mall, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bangalore - 560010 Email ID- dgm@kride.in

No. KRIDE/HR/195/Vacancy Notification/06/2026 05.05.2026

Vacancy Notice No. 19/2026

K-RIDE, a JV of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways, executing the BANGALORE SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT & RAILWAY DOUBLING PROJECTS, & other Railway doubling projects invites applications for the following post on Deputation basis.

Vacancy Notice No.	Post	No. of Posts	Grade
19/2026	Jt. General Manager (Rolling Stock)	1	E6

Last date for submitting application is 04/06/2026
For detailed eligibility conditions and other details please visit: **https://kride.in/careers-in-k-ride/.**
DIPR/CP/YC/507/2026-27 Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER/HR (I/c)

KridePrm Kride Bsrp kride_bsrp KRIDE,BSRP

Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA)
(Institution of Maharashtra Govt.)
Aundh Road, Opposite of Spicer Collage, Near Animal Husbandry, Aundh, Pune - 411007 | Telephone Number: 020-25690623
Email - admin@mahaurja.com | Website - www.mahaurja.maharashtra.gov.in

Regarding inviting e-tenders from manpower supply organization

Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA) for Head Office Pune & Divisional and district offices in Maharashtra is recruiting Technical Servants for the post of Project Officer, Accounts Servants for the post of Accountant, Senior Assistant for the post of Senior Clerk, Junior Assistant for the post Junior clerk, Peon Servants for the post of Peon and Driver Servants for the post of Driver therefore. E-Tenders are being invited from registered and experienced organizations providing manpower on Contractual basis through outsourcing method. Accordingly, detailed advertisement, terms and conditions for filling e-tender are available on the website of Maharashtra Government https://mahatenders.gov.in and on the website of MEDA Office www.mahaurja.maharashtra.gov.in

E- Tender Timetable	
E-Tender available period	Date:- 05/05/2026 To 02/06/2026
E-Tender acceptance for the last date & time	Date:- 02/06/2026 Until 3.00 PM
Pre Tender Meeting Date & Time	Date:- 12/05/2026 at 3.00 PM
Pre Tender Meeting Venue	Conference Room. 4th Floor, New Administrative Building, MEDA Head Office, Aundh Pune-411007
Tender Opening Date	Until 3.00PM on 03/06/2026 (If Possible)

Sign/-
Director General, MEDA, PUNE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that, my client intends to transact with the property situated in Pandithana Agrahara Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District from its respective owners and the Agreement and General Power of Attorney Holders, which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the **"Schedule Property".**
Any person having any subsisting claim, right, title or interest, in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner including by way of easement, beneficial interest or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit or award passed by any Court or Authority, arbitrator, lis-pendens, power of attorney, bequest, FSI, development rights, partnership, family arrangement or settlement or otherwise encumbrance howsoever or against the owners and the Agreement and POA Holders or to the transaction ("Claim"), are hereby requested to respond with documentary proof to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it existed, the claimant has relinquished such Claim and/or waived their right to exercise such Claim.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sl No	Site Number	Owner's Name	Agreement and General Power of Attorney holder	Extent in Square Feet	Boundaries			
					East By	West By	North By	South By
1	47	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, Mr Muniyappa, Mr Shamaiah, Mr Ramakrishna	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy	1494.36	Site Nos 72 and 73	Road	Site No 48	Road
2	73	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, Mr Muniyappa, Mr Shamaiah, Mr Ramakrishna	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy	1303.51	Road	Site No 47	Site No 72	Road
3	74	Mr Ritesh Prasad and Ms Nidhi Sardana	-	2508.3	Site Nos 103 and 104	Road	Site No 75	Road

Date:06.05.2026
Bangalore

Pavithra Thammaiah
Khaitan & Co LLP Indiqube Symphony,
4th Floor, Tower 2, 25, MG Road, Bengaluru-560 001
T: +91 80 43397000

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that, my client intends to transact with the lands situated in Pandithana Agrahara Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District from its respective owners which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the **"Schedule Property".**
Any person having any subsisting claim, right, title or interest, in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner including by way of easement, beneficial interest or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit or award passed by any Court or Authority, arbitrator, lis-pendens, power of attorney, bequest, FSI, development rights, partnership, family arrangement or settlement or otherwise encumbrance howsoever or against the owners and the Agreement and POA Holders or to the transaction ("Claim"), are hereby requested to respond with documentary proof to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it existed, the claimant has relinquished such Claim and/or waived their right to exercise such Claim and my client will proceed with the transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sl No	Sy No	Owner's Name	Extent (kharabh excluded)			Boundaries			
			Acre	Gunta	Kharabh	East By	West By	North By	South By
1	45	Ms Uma Devi wife of Mr N Venugopal	0	34	4	Land in Survey No 47	Land in Survey No 67	Land in Survey No 44	Land in Survey No 66 and 46
		Ms Roopa daughter of Mr N Venugopal	3	0					
2	46	Mr Venugopal son of Late Mr Narayanappa	0	31	3	Land in Survey No 47	Land in Survey No 66	Land in Survey No 45	Land in Survey No 107/2
3	66	Ms Nagarathna, Ms N Sumithra, Ms N Anasuya, Ms Mokshalakshmi, Ms N Lalitha all daughters of Late Mr Narayanappa.	3	9	0	Land in Survey Nos 46 and 107/2	Nala	Land in Survey Nos 67 and 45	Land in Survey Nos 65, 107/1 and 107/2

Date:06.05.2026
Bangalore

Pavithra Thammaiah
Khaitan & Co LLP Indiqube Symphony,
4th Floor, Tower 2, 25, MG Road, Bengaluru-560 001
T: +91 80 43397000

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that, my client intends to transact with the lands situated in Pandithana Agrahara Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District from its respective owners and the Agreement and General Power of Attorney Holders, which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the **"Schedule Property".**
Any person having any subsisting claim, right, title or interest, in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner including by way of easement, beneficial interest or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit or award passed by any Court or Authority, arbitrator, lis-pendens, power of attorney, bequest, FSI, development rights, partnership, family arrangement or settlement or otherwise encumbrance howsoever or against the owners and the Agreement and POA Holders or to the transaction ("Claim"), are hereby requested to respond with documentary proof to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it existed, the claimant has relinquished such Claim and/or waived their right to exercise such Claim.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sl No	Sy No	Owner's Name	Agreement and General Power of Attorney holder	Extent (kharabh excluded)			Boundaries			
				Acre	Gunta	Kharabh	East By	West By	North By	South By
1	43/2	Ms Nagamma wife of Late Mr Mariyappa	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	0	26	0	Land in Survey No 36	Land in Survey No 44/6	Land in Survey No 43/3	Land in Survey No 43/1
2	43/3	Ms Jayalakshmi wife of Mr Krishnappa	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	0	26	0	Land in Survey No 36	Land in Survey No 44/6	Land in Survey No 43/4	Land in Survey No 43/2
3	43/4	Ms Rathnamma wife of Late Mr Sampangi Ramaiah	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	0	20	0	Land in Survey No 36	Land in Survey No 44/6	Land in Survey No 43/5	Land in Survey No 43/3
4	43/5	Mr Rajappa son of Late Mr Abbagappa	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	0	8	0	Land in Survey No 36	Land in Survey No 44/6	Land in Survey No 43/6	Land in Survey No 43/4
5	43/6	Mr Krishnappa son of Late Mr Kenchappa	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	0	23	0	Land in Survey No 36	Land in Survey Nos 44/6 and 44/9	Land in Survey No 43/7	Land in Survey No 43/5
6	43/7	Mr Venkataswamy son of Late Mr Kenchappa	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	0	22	0	Land in Survey No 36	Land in Survey No 44/9	Land in Survey No 43/8	Land in Survey No 43/6
7	43/8	Mr Mariyappa son of Late Mr Kenchappa	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	0	10	0	Land in Survey No 36	Land in Survey No 44/9	Land in Survey No 43/9	Land in Survey No 43/7
			Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	0	6	0				
			-	0	14	0				
8	43/9	Mr Muniyappa son of Late Mr Kenchappa	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	0	22	0	Land in Survey No 36	Land in Survey No 44/2	Land in Survey No 43/10	Land in Survey No 43/8
		Mr Muniyappa son of Late Mr Kenchappa	-	0	20	0				
9	43/10	Ms Chowdamma alias Ms Akkamma wife of Late Mr Lakshmaiah	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	0	37	0	Land in Survey No 36	Land in Survey No 44/2	Land in Survey No 42	Land in Survey No 43/9
10	44/2	Mr Sardar Saab son of Mr Abba Saab	-	0	25	0	Land in Survey Nos 43/9 and 10	Land in Survey No 44/1	Land in Survey No 96/2	Land in Survey Nos 44/3 and 9
11	44/3	Mr Iqbal Baig and Mr Javid Baig, both sons of Mr Ameer Jaan	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	0	12.5	0	Land in Survey No 44/9	Land in Survey No 96/3	Land in Survey No 44/2	Land in Survey No 44/6
12	44/9	Mr Mukhtiyar Baig son of Mr Zabbar Baig	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	0	12.5	0	Land in Survey Nos 43/6,43/7, and 43/8	Land in Survey No 44/3	Land in Survey No 44/2	Land in Survey No 44/6
13	44/5	Ms Zareena	-	0	14	2	Land in Survey Nos 44/6 and 43/7	Land in Survey No 44/4	Land in Survey No 44/8	Land in Survey No 45
		Mr Syed Amanulla	-	1	0					
		Mr Inayatullah Khan	-	0	14					
14	44/7	Ms Haseena wife of Late Mr Afsar Pasha	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	0	14	0	Land in Survey No 44/6	Land in Survey No 44/5	Land in Survey No 44/8	Land in Survey No 44/5
15	44/8	Mr Syed Saifulla son of Late Mr Syed Yusuf	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	0	38	0	Land in Survey No 44/6	Land in Survey No 44/4	Land in Survey No 96/3	Land in Survey Nos 44/5 and 44/7
16	44/6	Mr Iqbal Baig and Mr Javid Baig, both sons of Mr Ameer Jaan	-	1	27	4	Land in Survey Nos 43/1 to 43/6	Land in Survey Nos 44/5, 44/7 and 44/8	Land in Survey Nos 96/3, 44/3 and 44/9	Land in Survey Nos 45,47, 48 and 49
17		Mr Mukhtiyar Baig son of Mr Zabbar Baig	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	1	27					
18	67 (converted)	Global Developers	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy, son of Mr Ranga Reddy	3	31	4	Land in Survey No 45	Land in Survey No 72	Land in Survey Nos 68 and 44	Land in Survey No 66
19	96/2	Mr Ayub Baig, Ms Yunis Baig, Mr Ani Baig, Ms Kauser Begum, children of Mr Waheed Baig	Mr Pabba Reddy Kodandarami Reddy son of Mr Ranga Reddy And Mr Gagan Reddy	2	1	0	Land in Survey No 42	Land in Survey No 96/1	Private property	Land in Survey Nos 44/1 and 44/2
20	92 (portion)	Mr Syed Safiullah son of Mr Syed Yusuf	-	0	10	0	Land in Survey No 70	Road	Remaining portion of land in Survey No 92	Remaining portion of land in Survey No 92

Date:06.05.2026
Bangalore

Pavithra Thammaiah
Khaitan & Co LLP Indiqube Symphony,
4th Floor, Tower 2,25, MG Road,Bengaluru-560 001
T: +91 80 43397000

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वासांसि जीर्णानि यथा विहाय, नवानि गृह्णाति नरोऽपराणि।
तथा शरीराणि विहाय जीर्णा न्यन्यानि संयाति नवानि देही।।

श्रीमगवद्गीता २.२२

Shri Dindayal Gupta
[13.09.1937 - 02.05.2026]

The guiding light has gone out of our lives,
but the legacy he leaves behind,
shall remain forever.

A true Karmayogi
who dedicated his life to Dharma,
his vision and leadership helped weave
Million Dollar smiles amongst those
who ever came in touch with him.

His life shall continue to inspire us
as we walk on his cherished path.

We pay our homage to his departed soul
and pray for its eternal peace.

Bereaved
Dollar Parivaar

DOLLAR
WEAR THE CHANGE

Tender (e-procurement)

For the year 2026-27 tenders are invited through e-procurement to select agencies separately for the supply of foodstuff and other materials to all residential schools/colleges and pre-metric/post-metric boys/girls hostels running under the Belgaum District Minority Welfare Department for a period of one year or till further orders. Applicants can apply through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from Date: 05.05.2026 to 03.06.2026.
Sl.No:1:Section:Belagavi,Tender Amount (in lakh): 1031.80, Tender E.M.D Amount (in lakh):10.32, Submission of Tender Date:05.05.2026, Submission of Tender Last Date:03.06.2026 5.30 pm.
For more Information ::0831-2950349

Sd/- District Officer
Minority Welfare Department Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-192/KSMCA/2026-27

GMDC

TENDER NOTICE

RFPs to provide catering, housekeeping and laundry services at ATPS (Package 1), Panandhro & Gadhsisa (Package 2) and Bhavnagar (Package 3)

GMDC is a leading Public Sector Mining and Minerals Company of Gujarat with operational experience of over 60 years. GMDC intends to appoint Service provider for providing **catering, housekeeping and laundry services** at various locations of GMDC in Gujarat as per scope of work specified in the following RFPs.

1. **RFP/Facilities Management/01/GMDC LTD/2026-27 (Package 1)**
2. **RFP/Facilities Management/02/GMDC LTD/2026-27 (Package 2)**
3. **RFP/Facilities Management/03/GMDC LTD/2026-27 (Package 3)**

Interested Parties shall download the RFP document from **www.gmdcltd.com** & **https://gmdctender.nprocure.com** and submit their proposal online on **https://gmdctender.nprocure.com** on or **before 04/06/2026 up-to 18:00 hrs.**
For Further Details Please visit our Website **www.gmdcltd.com** & **https://gmdctender.nprocure.com.**

Chief Facility Manager

Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Gujarat Enterprise)
Khanij Bhawan, 132 Feet Ring Road,
Near University Ground, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad-380052

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 16th April, 2026

S.O.1933(E).- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-Section (1) of Section 20A of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the Schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the Special Railway Project, namely. "Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No.217 at Km: 359/500-600 in Ranebennur Yard (Ranebennur City)" in the State of Karnataka, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land:

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the competent authority, namely, Incharge Land Acquisition Officer Assistant Commissioner Haveri and Regional Commissioner, Belagavi for "Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No.217 at Km: 359/500-600 in Ranebennur Yard (Ranebennur City)" in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20D of the said Act shall be final:

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the competent authority.

SCHEDULE

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	Survey Nos.	Part	Area in Hectare
1	Ranebennur City	827	E	0.1113
2	Ranebennur City	785	B	0.0405
3	Ranebennur City	785	-	0.0152
4	Ranebennur City	780	B	0.0506
				0.0057
				0.9510
				0.0809
5	Ranebennur City	781	2D+2E/1, 2,3,4+2F	0.0759
				0.0253
				0.0297
6	Ranebennur City	782	-	0.1138
				0.0835
				0.0708
				0.0278
				0.0253
7	Ranebennur City	778	-	0.0531
				0.0430
Total				1.8034

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27/Land SRP/1727

For details log on : https://egazette.gov.in

Sd/-
(Pardeep Puri)
Chief Engineer -III/Construction
PUB/94/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Bengaluru Cantonment**

Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

JAIPUR CITY TRANSPORT SERVICES LIMITED

No.: MD/JCTSL/2026-27/D - 275 Date : 04/05/2026

Corrigendum - 05

This is with reference to JCTSL Bid no 07/2025-26 published on **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** UBN No.JCT2526SLOB00009 and **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**. Tender ID 2026_JCTS_532359_1, Some amendments are made. Detail of amendments can be seen and may be downloaded from above mentioned websites and JCTSL Website **(http://transport.rajasthan.gov.in/jctsl).**

Raj.Samwad/C/26/2094 **OSD, JCTSL**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru the 17th April, 2026

S.O.1931(E).-In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of section 20F and clause 7A of section 2 of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railway (South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) hereby authorizes the officers mentioned in column (4) of the table below as 'Competent Authority' and the officers mentioned in column (5) of the table below as 'Arbitrator' to perform the functions as such authority under the said act with effect from date of publication of this notification in the official gazette in respect of Special Railway Projects mentioned in column (2) relating to district mentioned in column (3) of the table below for public purpose of execution, maintenance, management and operation of such Special Railway Project.

SN	Name of the Project	District	Competent Authority	Arbitrator
1	Construction of Road Over Tumakuru Bridge with LHS in lieu of LC No. 81 in Tumakuru - Arsikere (TK-ASK) Section, Koppa Village,Tiptur Taluk, Tumakuru District	Tumakuru	Special land acquisition officer Tumakuru Rayadurga Project, Tumakuru Railway	Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru

[F.No.W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27 Land SRP/1727]

For details log on : https://egazette.gov.in

PARDEEP PURI, Chief Engineer-III/Construction,
PUB/89/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Bengaluru Cantonment**

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE/TA/79/2026-27 Date: 04.05.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible tenderers for the Work of **sinking of 6.5inch dia new borewell and energization with necessary accessories at Various locations of Sarvagnanagara Constituency coming under AEE(BW&PS)-2-2 Sub division (21 Nos).**

Amount put to Tender: **Rs.232.21 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 3,48,400/-.**

The last date for submission of completed tender document is on 19.05.2026 upto 16.00 hrs. and Technical Bids will be opened on 20.05.2026 at 16:00 hrs. The details regarding participation in the tendering process and tender can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the below signed office during working hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Design & QA)

DIPR/CP/504/AKAR/2025-26

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)
No.: CEE/T&P/SEE-2/2026-27/1161-74 **Date: 05.05.2026**

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following Works against the following Enquiry Number on **Partial Turnkey Basis.**

Sl. No.	Bid Enquiry No. and Name of the Works
1.	**KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3686**
	Combined Package of
	Work-A: Establishing 2X20 MVA, 110/11kV sub-station at **Pamanakallur** and construction of 110 kV LILO Line for a distance of **0.05km** in Maski Taluk, Raichur District.
	Work-B: Establishing 2X20 MVA, 110/11kV sub-station at **Kyadigera** and construction of 110 kV LILO Line for a distance of **7.989km** in Devadurga Taluk, Raichur District.
	Work-C: Establishing 2x20MVA, 110/11kV & 1x20MVA, 110/33kV sub-station at **Kadlur** village and Construction of 110kV DC Line for a distance of **18.156 kms** along with Terminal Bays at 110/11kV Googal sub-station in Raichur Taluk & District.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **12.05.2026 @ 15:00hrs. Last date & time for receipt of Bids and any extension of Due date for Bid submission and Corrigendum/Addendums will be intimated in the KPP Portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer(Electy.,),
Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL, 9th Floor, Indhana Bhavana, Anand Rao Circle, KPTCL, Bengaluru – 560 009.

BOI Bank of India

Head Office, IT(Governance & Excellence) Department, Star House-3, PNB-BOI Tower, C-29, G Block, 10th Floor ,Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051.
E-mail: HOIT.G&E@bankofindia.bank.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR

Request for Proposal For Procurement of 61 Video IP Phones with 3- years warranty and Licenses for HeadOffice & FGMOs.
vide Ref. No.: HO:IT(G&E):RFP:VOIP:2026-27:193 Dated: 29-04-2026
GeM Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7489052 Dated 29-04-2026
The captioned RFP is available on Bank's corporate website www.bankofindia.bank.in under "Tender" section & GeM portal. Subsequent changes if any, will henceforth be uploaded on the Bank's website & GeM portal. The last date of submission: 20.05.2026

कार्यालय नगर निगम जयपुर

पण्डित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय भवन, लालकोठी, जयपुर
क्रमांक :– जरास / 2026 / 61 दिनांक: 04.05.2026

ई-निविदा सूचना क्रमांक :– 7/2026-27

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 01's CNG TRUCK MIUNTED ROAD SWEEPER MACHINE AS PER TENDER CONDITIONS हेतु पंजीकृत फर्म्स से ई–निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र, विस्तृत सूचना एवं शर्तें आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाइट **www.jaipurmc.org**, **www.sppp.raj.nic.in** and **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर स्टेट पब्लिक प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट के **UBN No. JMC2627GLOB00095** पर देखी जा सकती है।

उपायुक्त (गैराज)
राज.संवाद / शी / 26 / 2096 नगर निगम जयपुर

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 24th April, 2026

S.O.2080(E).- In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of section 20F and clause 7A of section-2 of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railway (South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonmnet) herby authorizes the officer mentioned at column (4) in the table below as 'Competent Authority' and the officer mentioned at column (5) in the table below as 'Arbitrator' to perform the functions as such authority under the said act with effect from date of publication of this notification in the official gazette in respect of Special Railway Projects mentioned at column (2), relating to districts mentioned at column (3) in the table below for Land Acquisition required for the public purpose.

SN	Name of the Project	District	Competent Authority	Arbitrator
1	Quadrupling Between Hosapete-Bellari stations (65km)	Vijayanagar	Assistant Commissioner, Hospet	Regional Commissioner, Kalburgi
		Ballari	Assistant Commissioner, Ballari	

[F.No.W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27 Land SRP/1727]

For details log on : https://egazette.gov.in

PARDEEP PURI, Chief Engineer-III/Construction,
PUB/88/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Bengaluru Cantonment**

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

Directorate of Medical Education

BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798
E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com

No: DME/KCMMR/FD-01/2026-27 **Date: 04-05-2026**

INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Directorate of Medical Education invites e-Auction from **Public Sector Banks for Investment of its Surplus Funds of KCMMR Society.**

Date of e-Auction Notification Dt: 05-05-2026

Last Date to Upload the Eligibility Criteria in Annexure-A and Declaration in Annexure-B in the e-Portal Dt: 12-05-2026 on or before 16.00 Hours.

Live Bidding Dt: 14-05-2026 Commences at 10.00 Hours and Concludes at 16.00 Hours.

Further details may be obtained from the above office and from Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at Auctions.**

Sd/- Member Secretary
Karnataka Chief Minister's Medical Relief Society & Director of Medical Education, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/506/Adverto/2025-27

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY

Office of the Executive Engineer-2, Project Implementation Unit, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560011.

No: EE-2/GBA/PIU/TEND/03/2025-26 **Date: 05-05-2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer-2, Project Implementation Unit, GBA, Bengaluru invites Request for Proposal from interested Persons / Firms for the below work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Upgradation of Project Implementation Unit (PIU) GBA Office at 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, Jayanagara, Bengaluru. **Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 300.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 4,50,000.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment and Rs. 3,50,000.00 Balance in form of BG).**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 11-05-2026. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **15-05-2026 at 4.00 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer-2, Project Implementation Unit, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560011. 3)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **21-05-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **22-05-2026 at 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-2,
Project Implementation Unit, GBA.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-10914

E-Tender Enq. No. 730/P-1/EMPW-13314 dtd.29.04.2026

Dy Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2026_POWER_167383_1 for Routine Cleaning of Ghanauli siphon drain, Type-IV drain, drains in plant area & sedimentation sump for the continuous flow of water along with cutting and clearance of wild growth including its disposal in plant area and maintenance of grassy lawns behind LDO Pump House, up keeping of nursery and maintenance of flower beds and area on both sides of road from roundabout to Service Building at GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 30.04.26 from 05.00 PM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

RTP-49/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/11187

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-23210, 96461-40141)

Tender Enquiry No. (RfS No.)-63/PSPCL/NRSE/SOLAR/250MW/2026/ET-13 | Dated:04-05-2026

Office of Dy.CE/NRSE, NRSE & Thermal (D), T-8, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala-147001, invites bids for purchase of 250 MW solar power (from Bidders submitting Bid with land documents) through competitive bidding process (followed by e-reverse auction) from 50 MW and above grid connected solar photovoltaic power projects to be set up in Punjab. For detailed NIT and tender specification please refer to **https://www.bharat-electronictender.com**

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://www.bharat-electronictender.com** only.

C-558/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/11198

6001/27/2627

The Odisha State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited

omfed www.omfed.com
D-2, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007
PH NO. : 0674-2546030, 2540273, 2540417, 2540974
E-mail ID : omfed@yahoo.com

E-Tender

OMFED invites reputed registered and experienced Labour Contractors for engagement as Labour Contractor to perform different works on Job basis & Mandays basis at Omfed Cattle Feed Plant, Radhadamodarpur. The e-tender is invited on-line through 'e'-procurement of Govt. of Odisha web Portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** and **http://www.omfed.com.** The Bid documents will be available in the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** from 10.00 AM of 06.05.2026 to 00.00 PM of 26.05.2026. The Technical Bid shall be opened at 3.00 P.M. of 27.05.2026 at OMFED Corporate office in the presence of the interested bidders. The Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bid document or part thereof without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Managing Director
OIPR - 6001/6063/1/26-27/0016

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY

YELAHANKA, BENGALURU – 560 064.
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO.RWF/S/P1/002/2026-27 dt.04.05.2026

On behalf of the President of India, **Principal Chief Materials Manager** invites electronic Tenders from Interested Vendors for supply of the following items on the Indian Railways E-Portal – **www.ireps.gov.in**. The Tender documents and the Corrigenda to the Tenders, if any, will be available on the Portal only.

Sl	Tender No	Due date	Short Description	Qty
1	P1261946	21.05.2026	Steel blooms 300 mm square R-43 as per RWF specification.	2140 MT
2	P1261984	25.05.2026	Water Cooled Roof as per RWF Drawing.	07 Nos.
3	P1261944	02.06.2026	H.A.70% bricks of size 230X115X76MM as per RWF Specification	23851 Nos.
4	P1261852	05.06.2026	Steel Blooms 300 mm square [Train 18] as per RWF Specification	9438 MT
5	P1261667	17.06.2026	Steel Blooms 300 mm Square R16 [LHB] as per RWF Specification	22843 MT
6	P1261952	10.07.2026	SE Drill Modular Body of (3L/D) dia 22.5mm	65 Set
7	P1261821	13.07.2026	Magnesia Carbon Bricks as per RWF Specification	150000 Nos.
8	P1261948	15.07.2026	Steel blooms 340 mm square R-43 as per RWF specification	14496 MT
9	P1261795	29.07.2026	Bricks Arch High Alumina 70% for Ladle Lining as per RWF Specification	638 Set
10	P1261947	13.08.2026	Steel Blooms 287mm square as per RWF Specification	1608 MT

Principal Chief Materials Manager

KARNATAKA STATE AKKAMAHADEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY, VIJAYAPUR

Registrar Office, Vijayapur - 586108.
Phone:08352-297068, Website; www.kswu.ac.in

No:KSAWUV/EXAM/E-Tender/2026-27/323 Date: 30.04.2026

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women University (herein after referred to as KSAWUV or University) invites Tenders from the eligible and reputed vendors/companies as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act. The Tendered, who have registered under e-governance Department of Karnataka may participate through e-tendering system. Bid documents may be downloaded from the E-procurement Website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The eligible Tenderer shall submit their e-Tender in under e-procurement platform as scheduled in e-portal. Contact number: 08352-297068, 8722116613.

Name of work: 01. Printing and Supply of Theory Answer Booklets to Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Womens University Vijayapura. **Tender Amount Rs. 1,48,80,000/-.** Tender Number: KSWU/2025- 26/IND0024/CALL-2 EMD Rs.2,23,500/-. Tender Period: 365Days

Sd/- Registrar,
Karnataka State Akkamahadevi women's University, Vijayapura

ವಾಸಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/77/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಎ/2026–27

13001/368/2627

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

Progress Through Partnership for Better Bhubaneswar
No. 25326/ Date : 04.05.2026 /
XXXXX-II-SBAC-66/2026
Notice Inviting Tenders

SWACHH SURVEKSHAN

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Bhubaneswar, invites the Request for Proposal (RFP) for **"BIOMINING OF LEGACY WASTE LOCATED AT THE DUMPSITE IN BHUASUNI, BHUBANESWAR"** as reflected hereunder, in conformity with the Detailed Request for Proposal (RFP). The bidders should have the necessary Portal Enrolment (with own Digital Signature Certificate). The bid documents comprising of eligibility criteria, instruction to bidders, scope of the work etc. can be seen / downloaded, from e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha, during the period as stipulated under critical date.

Sl. No. (1)	Name of the Work (2)	Bid Security (3)	Cost of Document (4)	Period of Contract (5)
1	Biomining of Legacy waste located at the dumpsite in Bhuasuni, Bhubaneswar	16,50,000/-	11,800/-	6 months

1. Mode of Submission : Bid documents should be submitted online in **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
2. The bidders desirous to participate in bidding must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate and should follow the changes/modifications/addendum to RFP if any.
3. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in and website of BMC i.e. https://www.bmc.gov.in/.**
4. Subsequent corrigendum, if required, shall appear in the **www.tendersodisha.gov.in and website of BMC i.e. https://www.bmc.gov.in/.** However, the technical and financial proposal shall only be submitted in e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha.
5. Authority reserves the right to cancel the entire bid process or part of it, at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.
6. Please note that no liability will be accepted for difficulties in, and/or incomplete download of the Tender document.
7. The Schedule of Bidding process is as follows :

Sl. No	Description	Critical Dates
1.	Period of availability of tender document for bidding in e-procurement portal and website	From 06.05.2026 (Time- 11.00 AM) to Dt. 28.05.2026 (Time 05.00 PM)
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting	Dt. 13.05.2026 Time 12.00 Noon at the Conference Hall 4th Floor, BMC-ICOMC building and if required virtual mode facility can also be enabled
3.	Submission of pre-bid queries by Applicants to email id: **dc-sanitation@bmc.gov.in**	Dt. 14.05.2026 upto 5.00 PM
4.	Last date and time for submission of proposal on online mode	Dt.28.05.2026 (5.00 PM)
5.	Date & Time of opening of proposal	Dt. 29.05.2026 (11.30 AM)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Sanitation)
Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation
OIPR - 13001/13002/1/26-27/0023

SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE HEADQUARTER, MP., BHOPAL

NO. SB/Store/2026-25 (322) Bhopal, Dated 29-04-2026

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE "

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app:-

S. No.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
			Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in		
1	Image and Video Enhancement Software	01	10,000/-	3,96,000/-	1st Tender

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is nonrefundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & **must submit online through website** https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
4. **Tender Schedule:**

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	E-Tender Publish Date	30/04/2025 at 1400 hrs.
ii	Tender document download Start Date	30/04/2026 up to 1430 hrs.
iii	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: **aigg-sb@mppolice.gov.in**	**05/05/2026 up to 1700 hrs.**
iv	Pre Bid Meeting alongwith written queries	06/05/2026 at 1200 hrs.
v	Bid Submission Start Date	11/05/2026 at 1000 hrs.
vi	Last date of online e-Tender submission	20/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
vii	Bid will be opened on	21/05/2025 up to 1600 hrs.
viii	Demonstration from	Demo Date will be announced separately

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum /addendum/ amendment.
6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

"पॉक्सो है सुरक्षा का हथियार, बच्चों पर ना करें अत्याचार" G-12449/26

Sd/-
D.I.G. of Police
Intelligence (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel. No. 0755-2443654

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - SWM Division MC			
1.	Augmentation of the Storm Water Drainage System by providing and laying RCC NP-2 pipelines of various sizes for the smooth disposal of rainwater in lieu of the choked SWD system along Dakshin Marg and Sarovar Path including V-5 road near Mukat Hospital, Chandigarh. **Approximate Amount : Rs. 1,77,04,304/- Earnest Money : Rs. 3,54,086/- Time Period : 06 Months Tender Fee : Rs. 3,000/-**	05.05.2026 at 4:00 P.M To 15.05.2026 at 3:00 P.M	15.05.2026 at 03:30 P.M
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - M.C.P.H. Division No. 3			
2.	Desilting, Rehabilitation & Strengthening of existing 38" x 57" CBD Sewer Line with Structure Lining (CIPP Liner) at V3 Road Sector 45/46 in Chandigarh (Ch. To: AMRUT 2.0) (Re-invited) Est. Cost : Rs. 8,39,98,820/- EMD : Rs. 16,79,976/- Time Limit : 06 Months Tender Fee : Rs. 5,000/-.	06-05-2026 To 19-05-2026 upto 01:00 P.M.	19-05-2026 at 03.00 P.M.

Note :- 1) Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at www.chandigarh.gov.in or etenders.chd.nic.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SWM Division, Room No. 612, 6th Floor, New Deluxe Building, MC Sector-17, Chandigarh email id : mcc.swm2020@gmail.com and M.C.P.H. Divn.No.3,Chandigarh.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 9th April, 2026

S.O.1825(E). - In exercise of the powers conferred under clause 37(A) of Section 2 of the Railways Act, 1989 (Act no. 24 of 1989), the Ministry of Railways, (South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment) Government of India, hereby notifies that the projects mentioned in the table below are "Special Railway Project" in the State of Karnataka for providing National Infrastructure for a Public Purpose with effect from the date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Village	Taluk	District
1	Hubballi Division- Proposed Construction of RUB in Lieu of LC No.26 of Size 1x9.25x5.5m RCC Box at Km.46/100-200 at Hulkoti Yard on Hulkoti-Chikkhandigola Road between Hulkoti and Gadag stations	Hulkoti	Gadag	Gadag

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27/Land SRP/1727

For details log on: https://egazette.gov.in

Ajay Sharma,
PUB/93/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Chief Administrative Officer/Construction/Bengaluru Cantonment**

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South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

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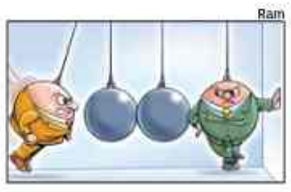
Why Top Talent Loses Momentum

...And Firms Fall Short In Nurturing Good Hires, Until It's Too Late

By Prabir Jha


Ram

A new hire joined with significant visibility and high expectations. Six months later, when someone asked about her, she was seen as overextended and struggling to keep up. Another six months on, she had largely withdrawn, operating quietly on the margins, with little visibility or impact.

This is not an isolated case but a reflection of a deeper talent and cultural issue across many organisations. Where do systems and leadership fall short—undermining value creation, damaging careers, and eroding organisational culture? Here are some scenarios and what you can do about them.

1. Misplaced hiring: Many times, both the company and the individual oversell and overly assume the opportunity. The role itself may be sold as 'strategic' or 'transformational' or understood as such. Either way, the hiring is misconfigured from the start. The role gradually contracts to its true scope, pulling the individual down with it.

2. Misaligned culture: A common failure point is a culture that constrains rather than enables. Weak diligence or an overly optimistic view of the company's reputation often leads to a flawed assessment of how things work. A new hire's success depends on multiple stakeholders, and sometimes they are not all aligned. Some may see the hire as a threat to their turf or influence, while leadership can be swayed by entrenched internal narratives, making even strong talent lose momentum.

3. Mismatched manager: Sometimes managers love to hire 'great' talent to show they can lasso one; it adds to their lustre. So, the hiring experience may turn out very different from the post-recruitment reality. Inability to delegate, micromanaging, low visibility, and lack of appreciation are very common pitfalls for many managers. Such behaviour, or an inherent insecurity, can lead the manager to trivialise the new hire or delegate them to inconsequential jobs.

4. Misinformed leadership: In many firms, the top leadership is too busy dousing the usual fires to even care about how well the new talent is being assimilated or what support could help make the person more effective in the new workplace. Communication comes to them filtered or adulterated. They may not have time to meet with fresh talent to gain another perspective. This creates huge perception problems. The effects are demoralisation, disillusionment, and psychological decimation of self-worth. Great talent suddenly becomes almost worthless.

5. Misunderstood hire: Finally, many hires just get misunderstood, misjudged and misled. Sometimes the manager changes, and the relatively new hire is seen as the predecessor's guy and is edged out. Other, well-intentioned suggestions and comments are misread and seen as subversive. Then there is the push-back with "this is the way we have always done it here", till the person draws into a shell to preserve sanity, and lose themselves, as well as all that they thought they had signed up for.

The entire experience can be an unending cycle with many firms,but the strategic implications are huge. Don't let a missed step become a missed opportunity at work.

(The author is the founder & CEO, Prabir Jha People Advisory)

Walk-in Recruitment for Freshers!

We are hiring Associate Officer (Sales) in Bengaluru — 9th & 10th May 2026

Designation	Associate Officer (Sales)
Qualification	Minimum 50% in Graduation
Annual CTC	₹4.64 Lakh to ₹6.70 Lakh
Upper Age Limit	27 Years (should be born on or after 01.05.1999)
Selection Rounds	Spot Assessment & Personal Interview
Other Major Benefits	Gratuity, NPS, Loans on concessional interest rate, Medical insurance coverage for self & dependents, and performance-led career progression.
Posting Location	Bengaluru
Domicile State	Karnataka

Date	Location	Time
09th May 2026	**Kristu Jayanti** (Deemed to be University), K. Narayanapura, Kothanur, Bengaluru-560077	10.00 AM to 04.00 PM
10th May 2026	**Global Academy of Technology,** Aditya Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560098	10.00 AM to 04.00 PM

Things to Carry
- Two copies of CV
- Domicile Proof (Aadhaar, Voter ID, Passport or Driving License)
- Original Mark List & Degree Certificate of your Graduation
- Smart Phone with Internet Connection

Register Now
Scan the QR Code to confirm your participation
- Limited slots available
- Pre-registration is highly recommended
- Walk-ins without registration will be allowed on a first-come, first-served basis

Note: Federal Bank reserves the right to make any changes to the modalities of the recruitment process at their sole discretion.

इंजीनियर्स इंडिया लिमिटेड (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) ENGINEERS INDIA LIMITED (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Engineers India Bhawan, 1, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi – 110066

SPECIAL RECRUITMENT DRIVE (SRD) FOR SC, ST & OBCs

India's leading Total Solutions Engineering Consultancy Company, **Engineers India Limited,** a Navratna PSU offers opportunity for dynamic career oriented experienced professionals with the zeal to be a part of this prestigious organization and contribute towards the nation's growth.

EIL is looking for suitably qualified, experienced and motivated professionals for the following positions to partner in its growth story: -

Position Code	Position	Discipline	Pay Scale (₹)	Tentative Vacancies*	Breakup of Vacancies*
26-27/04/A	Senior Manager (Projects)	Civil/ Mechanical/ Electrical/ Instrumentation	90000-240000	2	1 SC, 1 OBC
26-27/04/B	Senior Manager (Electrical)	Electrical		1	OBC
26-27/04/C	Manager (HR)	HR	80000-220000	1	OBC
26-27/04/D	Engineer (Projects)	Civil/ Mechanical/ Electrical/ Instrumentation	60000-180000	1	OBC
26-27/04/E	Engineer (Chemical-Process)	Chemical		1	OBC
26-27/04/F	Engineer (Civil)	Civil		1	SC
26-27/04/G	Engineer (SCM-C&P)	Electrical/ Mechanical/ Civil		2	1 OBC, 1 ST
26-27/04/H	Engineer (Admin. & Estate)	Civil/ Mechanical/ Electrical/		2	1 SC, 1 ST
26-27/04/I	Jr. Draftsman Gr I (Process)	Diploma in Chemical/ Mechanical	26500-115000	2	1 OBC, 1 ST
26-27/04/J	Jr. Draftsman Gr I (Civil)	Diploma in Civil		1	SC
26-27/04/K	Jr. Draftsman Gr I (Piping)	Diploma in Mechanical		1	OBC
26-27/04/L	Jr. Draftsman Gr I (Structural)	Diploma in Civil		2	1 ST, 1 OBC
26-27/04/M	Jr. Draftsman Gr II (Piping)	Diploma in Mechanical	25000-100000	2	1 SC, 1 ST
26-27/04/N	Junior Assistant Grade-III -HR	BBA		2	1 OBC, 1ST
26-27/04/O	Junior Assistant Grade-III - Hospitality	Hotel Management/ Hospitality & Hotel Administration/ Hospitality Administration	25000-100000	1	SC
Total				22	

*No. of vacancies indicated are only tentative. Reservation and relaxation for PwDs (Persons with Disabilities) shall be as per GOI (Government of India) guidelines.

Please visit the Company's website **'http://www.engineersindia.com'** for detailed advertisement. Online submission of application is permitted for eligible candidates on website between **0000 hours on 09.05.2026 till 2359 hours on 25.05.2026.**

HRD/Rectt./Advt./2026-27/04

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06B/26	Contracts & Materials	E2	25	11.05.2026	25.05.2026

Interested eligible candidates should log on to our website **careers.ntpc.co.in** or visit careers section at **www.ntpc.co.in** for viewing detailed eligibility criteria, qualification criteria, experience criteria, full text of the advertisement and for applying. Only online mode of applications will be accepted.

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			Deputation Basis	Parent Department pay plus deputation allowance	

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Advertisement No.: DMRC/988/2026

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Date: **05/05/2026**

Sd/-
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(Human Resources)

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CIN L27310CT2015GOI001618

NOTICE DATE: 04.05.2026

IT IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT THE RECRUITMENT FOR VARIOUS EXECUTIVE POSTS FOR NSL NAGARNAR NOTIFIED VIDE EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO NSL/PER/ R&P/REC/2024/ DATED 15.03.2025 STANDS CANCELLED DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS.

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Mumbai
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ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF VICE CHANCELLOR

The Search-Cum-Selection Committee invites more applications through this public notification or nomination or Talent Search for the post of Vice Chancellor, in extension of the advertisement published in leading newspapers on 13th March 2026 and in accordance with clause 7.3 of the UGC Regulations dated 18th July 2018.

Details regarding job description, eligibility criteria, general instruction and the online application process are available at: **www.nicmar.ac.in/pune-campus/careers**

Revised Last Date for Application/Nomination/Talent Search: 15th May 2026.

Candidates who applied under the earlier advertisement dated 13th March 2026 need not reapply.

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The complete details of Vacancies, Educational Qualifications & Eligibility Criteria are available on **https://www.edcilindia.co.in/TCareers**

Online application form shall be available from **06.05.2026**

The last date of receipt of application is **20.05.2026**

Note: IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED VACANCIES, INTERESTED CANDIDATES MAY REGISTER AND SUBMIT THEIR PROFILES ON THE **ONLINE RESOURCE POOL PORTAL** (**https://tsgrecruitment.edcil.co.in/**) WHICH SHALL REMAIN ACTIVE / LIVE ON A ROLLING BASIS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. CANDIDATES SHALL BE CONSIDERED FOR RELEVANT VACANCIES SUBJECT TO MEETING THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AS AND WHEN THE VACANCY ARISE FOR THE FUTURE REQUIREMENT.

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Search-cum-Selection Committee Invites APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

Applications are invited for the post of Vice-Chancellor of Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University, Ramtek, Dist.-Nagpur, Maharashtra. The essential qualifications and experience etc. required for the post of Vice-Chancellor are available on the university website, **www.kksu.org.**

Interested individuals have to submit a detailed resume in the prescribed format available on the university website. Institution Peers may also nominate suitable candidates/ nominations. Applications have to be sent in the prescribed format (a hard copy as well as a soft copy by E-mail) to the Nodal Officer at the address given below so as to reach on or before 5.00 PM on 29/05/2026. Application received after the last date shall not be entertained.

Name of Nodal Officer: **Shri. Vinod K. Kakkar**
Address: **H. No. 3434, Sector-23, Gurugram Haryana, Pin Code - 122017**
E-mail: kakkar.vk@gmail.com Mob. No.: **9654401260**
Date: 27/04/2026

CHAIRMAN,
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DGIPR/2026-2027/424

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PRINCIPAL

Pak neta: Army gave honours for terrorists killed in Op Sindoor

Rajshekhar.Jha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Ahead of the first anniversary of India's Operation Sindoor, a prominent Pak politician openly confirmed the Pakistani's army's direct defence of designated terrorists Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar. Pakistan Nazriyati Party chairman Shaheer Sialvi confirmed that the Pak military provided formal honours — including military funerals and uniformed pallbearers — for the terrorists killed in India's Operation Sindoor.

This admission, made at a function organised by the LeT, explicitly strips away the "non-state actor" facade, exposing deep-seated institutional support for terror networks under the guise of "freedom fighting."

Sialvi, the son of well known Pak army Brigadier Haider Malik, referenced the impact of strikes during Operation Sindoor, specifically mentioning attacks on Muridke and Bahawalpur — hubs for the LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

"For the first time it happened that attacks took place on Muridke and Bahawalpur ... The attacks took place on those two places that India had already declared as terrorist hubs internationally and had convinced the world of its narrative. This is the first time it has happened that if we have fought this war, it has been under the leadership of Hafiz Saeed and Maulana Masood Azhar." Sialvi said. The PNP leader also admitted to meeting Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and explicitly offering support. "Believe me, our people, the mujahideen, who come from there after fighting jihad, were often disturbed by the CTD (Counter-Terrorism Department) or other departments. When I met Hafiz Saeed Sahab, I told him that our party is our own but we are your representatives because you are fighting our war.".

Woman challenges HC order on religion loss

Questions Bias On Grounds Of Marriage

'Are you chief priest of country to question temple customs?'

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

▶Continued from P 1

New Delhi: A Parsi woman on Tuesday questioned a decision of the Valsad Parsi Panchayat barring women who married men of another faith from attending funeral rites of their parents, and challenged a Gujarat HC judgment that stated a woman's religion is extinguished with marriage as she embraces the husband's religion.

Appearing for Goolrokh M Gupta, senior advocate Darius J Khambata told a nine-judge bench led by CJI Surya Kant that most Parsi Panchayats impose no restrictions on community women even if they marry outside Zoroastrian faith, but the Valsad Parsi Panchayat had imposed restrictions, which do not apply to Parsi men marrying women professing another religion.

Khambata asked how the woman, who continued to practise Zoroastrianism for all purposes even after marrying a Hindu man under the Special Marriage Act, could be deprived of or discriminated against from entering the place of worship. Parsi Panchayat is an administrative body and not a religious denomination that can create practices not prescribed in religion, especially when they are not applicable to men from community, he said.

Justice Nagarathna said, "It appears to be a discrimination on the grounds of marriage."

Khambata said the HC ruling would have serious ramifications on anti-conversion laws as it held that marriage means a woman automatically converts to her husband's religion.

The bench said, "SC had entertained the PIL based on 'such documents', which should have been thrown in the dustbin. Locus standi was generated based on newspaper reports. SC should have ensured that action against the offender is expedited and nothing more."

The nine-judge bench consists of CJI Kant, Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine G Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi.

Justice Kumar asked whether the lawyers' body had passed a resolution for filing the PIL and whether it was a registered body.

Gupta said there was no resolution and that though Naushad Ali was only a name-lender, threats were given to him as well as to his counsel.

"Then CJI Dipak Misra, who was the architect of the controversial judgment, had offered security for the petitioner and its counsel. Then CJI Misra had said that even if the petitioner wanted to withdraw the PIL, the court would not allow it," Gupta informed.

CJI Kant observed, "So it was de facto a suo motu petition (taken up on its own by the court) de jure filed by the petitioner organisation?" The suggestion that the matter had been, in effect, engineered by the bench led by then CJI Misra found some confirmation in Justice Nagarathna's remark: "This is a realistic assessment of the CJI (Kant)."

Justice Nagarathna said, "The former CJI offered security to you and the petitioner organisation president. He could have ensured no security threat to you by not entertaining the petition. Why would a non-believer in Ayyappa question the temple customs carried on for decades based on faith and belief of devotees?"

"Are you the chief priest of the country to question temple customs and say how can there be such a custom in Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala," she said. Justice Sundresh said it appears to be a clear case of abuse of process of law.

Justice Nagarathna said the SC now entertains genuine public interest litigations.

Court orders FIR in Bargi cruise accident deaths

Times News Network

Jabalpur: Court on Tuesday directed Bargi police to register an FIR within two days over the April 30 cruise accident that claimed at least 13 lives. Judicial magistrate DP Sutrakar took suo motu cognisance based on newspaper reports and social media posts highlighting the cruise driver's alleged negligence.

"The vessel sank due to reckless operation, yet the driver — fully aware of controls — fled to safety, abandoning passengers struggling in the water without any rescue attempt," court said. Cruise pilot Mahesh Patel, helper Chhotelal Gond and ticket counter in-charge Brijendra were removed soon after the tragedy.

Man linked to Bishnoi network shot in Canada

Rajshekhar.Jha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A man alleged to be the "accountant" for Lawrence Bishnoi network in Canada was fatally shot in lobby of a busy office building in Surrey's Newton neighbourhood Monday afternoon. The deceased went by the alias of 'Sam Kaneda'.

Sources said that the role of pro-Khalistan shooters with Indian links was being investigated in the murder which the authorities believe was a targeted execution.

Surrey police said they had responded to reports of gunfire at a complex housing several businesses. Upon arrival, officers discovered a man's body with multiple gunshot wounds.

Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) has since taken over the case, noting that while the motive remains under investigation, the shooting appears to be a gang-related hit.

Shortly after the killing, a Facebook post by Rohit Godara, a fugitive gangster, claimed responsibility for the murder. Godara identified the victim as a "close associate" and "main handler" for his rivals, claiming that he was involved in cricket match-fixing and illegal betting operations in Canada. The post issued a warning that "the list was ready" and that anyone assisting their enemies would be targeted

While police have not yet officially confirmed authenticity of victim's identity, the incident has raised concerns over escalation of international gang violence on Canadian soil.

Pjb CM Mann to Prez: Cancel membership of 6 RS MPs

Ambika.Pandit
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The battle between Aam Aadmi Party and the seven Rajya Sabha MPs who have joined BJP reached President of India Droupadi Murmu's doorstep on Tuesday.

In separate meetings with the President, while Punjab CM **Bhagwant Mann** sought the termination of the membership of the six members from the state and emphasised the need for the "right to recall' provision in the Constitution, MP Raghav Chadha submitted a representation alleging "dangerous vendetta politics" was being carried out against them following their exit from AAP.

Amidst all this, addressing a gathering of MLAs from Punjab who had accompanied Mann to Delhi, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal in a scathing attack alleged that BJP has stolen seven Rajya Sabha seats— six of them from Punjab and that the people of state will take revenge for this in next year's assembly elections. MP Swati Maliwal is a a member from Delhi in the Upper House.

Injured passengers in hosp

▶Continued from page 1

Ajay Verma, CEO of Chandigarh International Airport, said, "There was no loss of life or property. A couple of injured passengers have been admitted to hospital."

In a statement, IndiGo said passenger safety remained its top priority. The aircraft was evacuated immediately and ground staff assisted passengers at the terminal. Among the injured was Dr Richa Acharya of Punjab health department, who sustained a fracture in her right leg and underwent surgery. The other injured passengers were discharged after first-aid. Richa's husband, Saurav Acharya, said his daughter also suffered a knee injury and alleged adequate arrangements were not made after the emergency slides were deployed.

Situation painful, children study in a room that is unsafe: Govt teacher

▶Continued from P1

In winter, cold winds create bone-chilling temperatures. In July 2020, the state govt sanctioned 68 new schools in the district. But beyond enrolment numbers and UDISE (Unified District Information System for Education) codes, several of the schools either received no basic infrastructure or were stuck with land far from areas they were supposed to cater to.

As a result, schools began operating from makeshift premises. According to villagers, the Kubda Bas school has survived only because a local family that owns the shed has allowed children to study on its private property.

Eight-year-old Ayaan says all classes are taught at the same time. During the monsoon, he worries that the roof might fall. Six-year-old Rukhsana "loves coming to school", though the animals hovering around it bother her.

The school has one govt teacher. Abhay Singh is posted here temporarily. He calls the situation painful and deeply unfair to the children.

TOI

A school that doesn't have a building and classes happen in adversity

"I teach them in a room that is unsafe," he says. When it rains, Abhay says, water leaks from all sides. In summer, the shed becomes too hot to hold even two classes together. "I am forced to make them sit outside in the sun."

Panchayat land has been identified for the school, but it is 3.5 km away, in Rawli. "Small children cannot walk that far every day," Abhay says.

Barkat Ali, the lone teacher at the Kalu Bas school who has been posted there since Oct 2022, says land is available but not allotted. "Education is suffering because of village politics," he says.

Parents, however, are thankful for the school, even if it doesn't have a building and classes happen in adversity. One woman says her family cannot afford private school fees.

At Mali Bas, a small settlement of Doha village in Nuh, the primary school has been functioning out of the village chaupal for the last five years. Twenty-nine students, from Balvatika to Class V, sit together in one room, on the floor. There is no boundary wall, no toilet and no drinking water. The chaupal is meant for community meetings, and people walk in and out all day.

Head teacher Rohtash Kumar says running a school in such conditions is extremely difficult. Assistant teachers Rekha and Priyanka, who travel nearly 30 km daily, say the girls, especially, are affected by the lack of toilets.

Land identified for the school is 3-4 km away, near Mundaka.

Villagers say enrolment has dropped due to lack of facilities. "Earlier, there were around 50 children studying here. Now, some parents are sending their children to other schools," a resident says. There have been times the school has come close to shutting down, but parents' pleas have kept that at bay.

In Ghatwas, the govt primary school is a dilapidated, abandoned room. Torn mosquito nets hang loosely from walls to protect children from insects. A Class V student says the room is crowded and uncomfortable, making it hard to concentrate.

This smart material changes colour as battery charge drops

Chethan.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Scientists in Bengaluru have developed a material that can both store energy and visibly show how much charge is left in it by changing colour, a step that could eventually lead to smarter batteries, windows and electronic devices.

The research was carried out at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

In simple terms, the material behaves a little like a mood ring for batteries. When fully charged, it appears blue. As the charge drops, it gradually turns transparent, giving users a direct visual indication of the battery level without needing a separate display or sensor.

Researchers say this could help tackle a common limitation in electronics: most systems today either store energy or display information, but rarely do both at the same time. The findings were published in the journal Materials Chemistry A.

"The team developed the material using a combination of molybdenum and tungsten oxide. Tiny gaps were deliberately created within its structure by removing some oxygen atoms. These gaps allow charged particles, or ions, to move more freely during charging and discharging," as per DST.

As those ions move, the electronic structure of the material shifts, producing the visible colour change. The study was led by principal researcher Ashutosh Kumar Singh.

Scientists tested the material in both energy storage and "electrochromic" applications — technologies in which materials change colour when electricity passes through them.

Researchers say such materials may eventually find use in smart windows that darken or clear automatically, wearable electronics or flexible display.

IISc, IITM scientists create new 'sandwich' molecule sans carbon

Times News Network

Bengaluru: A team of Indian scientists has created a new kind of molecule that challenges one of chemistry's long-held assumptions: that certain stable molecular structures can only be built using carbon.

Researchers from IISc and Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) have developed what they describe as the first carbon-free version of ferrocene, a landmark compound discovered in the 1950s that reshaped modern chemistry.

The findings were published this week in the journal Science. Ferrocene is often described as a "sandwich molecule". In it, an iron atom sits neatly between two flat carbon-based rings, much like a filling between slices of bread. The unusual structure became important in fields ranging from industrial chemistry to medicine.

For decades, scientists around the world tried to recreate this arrangement without using carbon, the element that forms the backbone of most known compounds and living matter. The Indian team has now managed to do that using boron, an element more commonly associated with detergents, heat-resistant glass and rocket fuels.

The work is the result of a long collaboration between Eluvathingal D Jemmis of the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry at IISc and Sundargopal Ghosh of the Department of Chemistry at IIT Madras. For more than 15 years, the researchers have been studying how boron-rich compounds can be stabilised using metals.

Using insights into how atoms bond and arrange themselves inside molecules, the team identified a promising structure involving boron and osmium. The compound was eventually synthesised in the laboratory by students working with Ghosh.

A CRATE IDEA!

SL Shanth Kumar

Workers shield themselves from the harsh sun with plastic crates as they go about their day in Mumbai

Court dissolves marriage after Muslim woman returns mehr

Saeed.Khan
@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: A family court here has dissolved a Muslim couple's marriage after the wife sent a khulanama to the husband, who refused to accept it.

The court also ordered judicial separation for the couple on the grounds of cruelty against the wife.

As per case details, the woman, a lecturer, married a man from Ahmedabad under Muslim rites and rituals in 2019, with a deferred mehr of Rs 11,000. A son was born to the couple in 2022. After a matrimonial dispute, the woman left her husband in Nov 2023 and sent him a khulanama (divorce deed) in March 2024 and returned the mehr.

The woman later approached the family court, seeking dissolution of marriage under the provisions of the Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act, 1939, citing the khulanama and claiming that the relationship had broken down beyond repair because of the ill treatment meted out to her by her husband and in-laws.

Her counsel M Pandya cited various judgments affirming the right of a Muslim woman to separate from her husband through khula, a form of divorce that can be resorted to by the wife. The khulanama is irrevocable by the husband, according to Islamic law.

She also contended that she and their child had been living separately from her husband for over two years and he had failed to maintain her during this period.

Govt calls for cessation of hostilities

▶Continued from page 1

In a separate statement, the ministry of external affairs called the attacks on Fujairah unacceptable and sought immediate cessation of these hostilities and the targeting of civilian infrastructure and innocent civilians.

"India continues to stand for dialogue and diplomacy to deal with the situation, so that peace and stability may be restored across West Asia.

"We also call for free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through the Strait of Hormuz in keeping with international law," said the ministry.

82-yr-old fights off leopard with cane

Bhopal: An 82-year-old man fought off a leopard by grabbing it by the ears and thrashing it with his cane in a forest near Naradpur village in MP's Panna district on Tuesday.

The octogenarian, Arjun Singh, went into the forest under the Pawai range to search for his missing buffalo when a leopard lunged at him and tried to clamp onto his neck. What followed was a face-off. Singh did not run, he told his family.

Instead, he held on to the leopard's ear and struck it repeatedly with the stick he was carrying. The struggle lasted several minutes, during which the big cat clawed at his hand, leaving him injured. But the resistance forced the leopard to retreat back into the forest.

Singh managed to walk back to his village and narrate the incident to his family, who notified forest officers. Forest officers took him to the community health centre in Pawai. He was later referred to the district hospital in Panna for further treatment.

Forest staff stepped up monitoring in the area to track the leopard, while authorities said compensation and medical assistance will be provided to the injured man as per norms. TNN

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UTTAR PRADESH'S

DEFINING TRANSFORMATION OVER

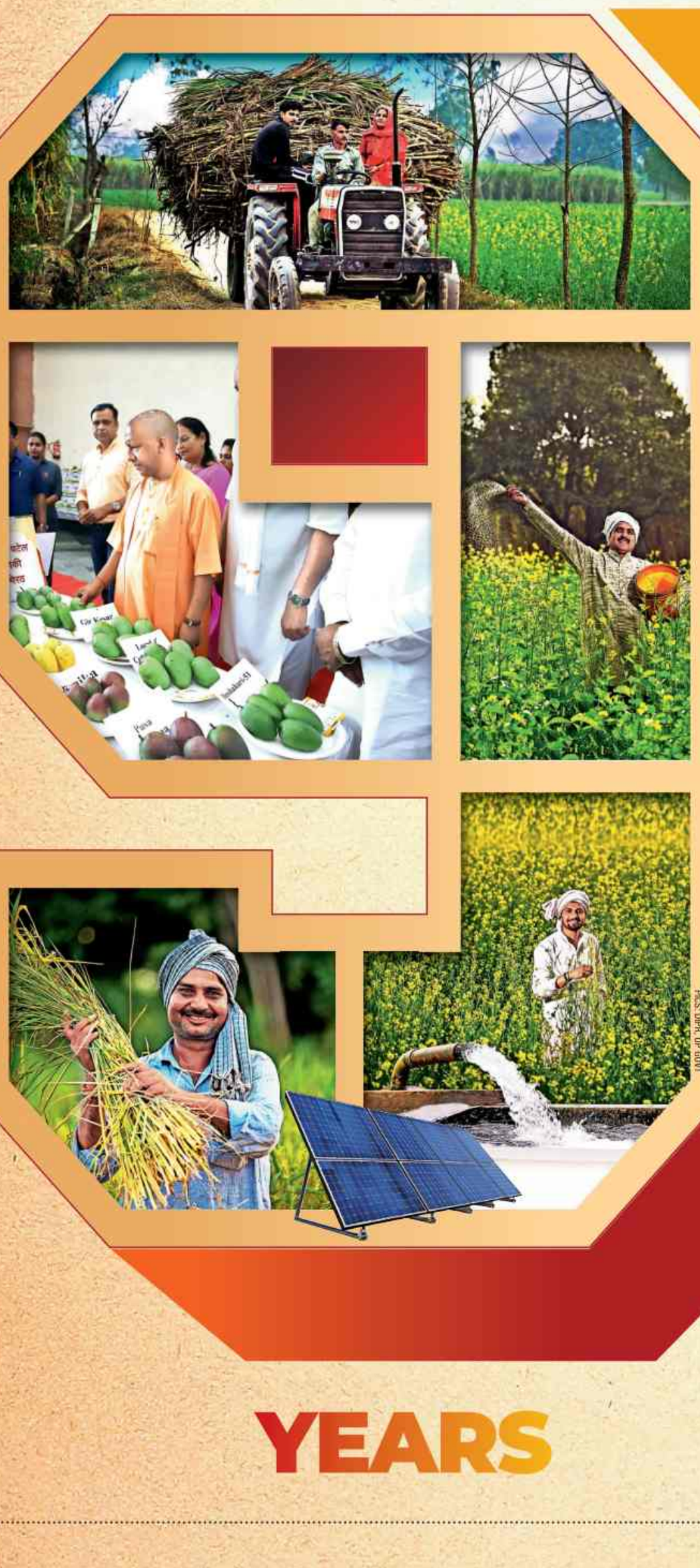

PHOTO: DIPR, UP GOVT

YEARS

- Established UP as a leader in the production of foodgrains, vegetables, sugarcane and milk
- Supported 3.12 crore state farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, transferring more than ₹99,000 crore to bank accounts
- Economically empowered sugarcane farmers by distributing ₹3.16 lakh crore
- Ensured fair prices for state's sugarcane farmers, increasing the sugarcane price from ₹315 to ₹400 per quintal (MSP)
- Enabled small and marginal farmers of UP by taking a historic decision of waiving off farmers' loans
- Established UP as the only state in the country which is using 76% of its total land bank for agriculture
- Installed 86,128 solar pumps of various capacities on farmers' fields under PM Kusum Yojana
- Leveraged technology to help farmers by promoting the usage of drone in agriculture
- Compensated ₹5660.33 crore to nearly 353.14 lakh insured farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

GOLDEN ERA OF AGRICULTURAL PROSPERITY & FARMERS' EMPOWERMENT

Over the past nine years, the Uttar Pradesh government has undertaken wide-ranging measures to strengthen the agricultural sector and support farmers. Investments in irrigation, improved access to quality seeds and expanded procurement systems have helped increase productivity. The integration of technology, including soil health monitoring, weather-based advisories and digital platforms, has enhanced efficiency and decision-making. Financial assistance through various government schemes, such as direct benefit transfers, crop insurance and subsidised credit, has reduced risks and improved incomes, enabling farmers to achieve higher output while ensuring greater resilience and long-term rural stability.

CONTRAPUNTO

In wartime, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies

– WINSTON CHURCHILL

Pump Primer

Govt has borne higher crude bill for two months. It should wait a while longer, to avoid stoking inflation

Uneasy lie heads burdened with crowns. More so when US and Iran are trading fire again, crude is inching up, and rumours of petrol and diesel price hikes are swirling. For the incoming CMs of Kerala, TN and Bengal, plus Himanta in Assam, this isn't the best time to start an innings. Vijay, TN's prospective CM, has promised households six free LPG cylinders per year. If domestic LPG follows the 48% hike in commercial LPG rates, TN's subsidy bill will rise by a few thousand crores. Himanta has also promised two LPG refills per household, per year.

The Iran war is equally a headache for Centre, which must balance the rising import bill with risk of inflation. Early in March, unnamed govt sources had suggested fuel prices wouldn't rise until crude crossed $130. It hasn't crossed $126 so far, and on Tuesday, despite

Iran's attack on Fujairah in UAE, it was at $113. Maybe, it's not time to pass on the cost to customers yet. Also consider the consequences of a hike. A 10% increase in pump prices is estimated to push up inflation by 0.5-0.6 percentage points. Now, when analysts see inflation touching 5.2% this fiscal, even a small fuel price hike could push it too close to RBI's 6% upper limit.

Beyond abstract numbers, higher diesel prices would push up cost of transportation, making everything costlier. And higher petrol prices could dent demand for private vehicles, which picked up pace last Oct, only after a generous GST cut. In US and Europe, higher fuel prices have boosted interest in EVs, but India isn't ready for a wholesale switch to electrics yet. Meanwhile, vehicle sales are a significant contributor to Centre and state revenues. So are fuels. In fact, between 2021-22 and 2024-25, Centre and states together earned more than ₹30L crore from petrol and diesel sales. Crude fell in that period, but pump prices didn't. Hence, there's a case for govt to continue bearing the increased cost of crude for some more time. Blockade of Hormuz is a global problem, and it can't continue indefinitely. But inflation resulting from higher pump prices would be India's problem alone, and bringing it under control could take months, or years, with secondary costs like higher interest rates and slower growth.

Rich In So Many Ways

Indian politicians come from a delightful range of occupations

What does one make of the extraordinary feat of Martin family's winsome 'threesome', who won three assembly seats, from three parties, in two legislatures, TN and Puducherry? Lottery businessman Martin's wife, TN's richest candidate (₹5,863cr, gulp), is now an ADMK legislator, their son-in-law is a TVK MLA, and their son floated his own outfit in neighbouring Puducherry to win a seat. No gawking – it's all legit. The cliché writes itself – lottery czar Martin's family hit the jackpot. Contesting and campaigning are so much about financial muscle and personal branding now, it's all kosher. Lower that eyebrow.

What's equally true is that riches of state assemblies aren't confined

to fat cats. Just as rich is the interesting, even bewildering, sometimes odd, mix of people who dream big, and dare to enter the electoral fray, frightening for those with thin skins, unthinkable for those with slim means. Leave aside the brains (family parties, career netas, activists and lawyers), the beauts (superstars, sportstars, B-grade actors), the babus & cops, even the motley mix of musicians and monks. The field keeps widening. Among the most novel trades, in this round, is that of a TVK winner – a vastu expert and 'medical astrologer', who some time ago, reportedly got into a bit of a snafu over posts on astrology curing cancer. As they say, we need all kinds infused in the dizzying cocktail that's a legislature.

On a more sobering note, mothers of rape-murder victims also find themselves winners, in perhaps, a closure of sorts. But who is to argue the legislature is no place for a goat farmer, or quack, soldier or domestic help, mime artist or YouTuber, purohit or tantrik? For the software engineer, investment banker and coder. All manner of occupations fetch up. The labourer may find it beyond his reach to contest, but not so the murder undertrial, or super scamster, for whom a win could be just the ticket needed. In the diversity of what passes as 'work', neta affidavits have even had, simply, "shop rent". No matter the grievances with Indian Netadom, reality is it draws the citizen in, like only politics can.

Namaste blessing

The Indian gesture of greeting and parting, is a truly universal salutation

Jug Suraiya

Long before the Covid pandemic made physical contact with others in the form of the Western handshake a no-no for fear of infection, the namaste, the salutation of bidding 'Welcome' and 'Farewell', had a truly universal significance.

Elegant and graceful, in the true sense of the term as being full of grace, the namaste is far preferable as a gesture of goodwill to the Western custom of shaking hands, which, reasons of personal hygiene apart, only too often can turn into a contest of bone-crushing machismo, or conversely, feel like physical intimacy being taken with a dead fish, limp and damp.

Most of us perform the namaste as a matter of routine social protocol, like covering one's mouth while yawning, and not picking one's nose, at least not in full public view.

secondopinion

But a post doing the rounds of social media reminds us that there is a profound wealth of meaning behind the act of putting the palms of our hands together, often erroneously described as 'folding one's hands', which would require bones of plasticine pliability that can be made to assume shapes of origamic ingenuity.

The word Namaste is derived from 'Nama', meaning 'to bow', and 'Te', meaning 'you'.

So when we do a Namaste to someone, we are saying, through the sign language of the Anjali mudra, that we are bowing to the other.

Far from being a sign of obsequious humility, like Chinese kowtowing is said to be, the implied bow is an acknowledgment of the universal Brahmatma that, through the individual Atma, unifies all of humanity, without division of nationality, race, religion, or language.

The gesture of the namaste embodies a spiritual significance. It is a form of momentary meditation in that by conjoining our hands at a level with our heart, we are said to connect nerve circuitry, which promotes calmness and a sense of inward peace, which is emanated towards the person being so greeted.

So the next time we offer someone a namaste, we are affording ourselves, and its recipient, a glimpse on Earth of Hi heaven.

Will Dravidian Still Be Goliath?

Vijay's rise will likely fundamentally change Tamil Nadu politics, by adding new demands to the old model of social justice. Under-45 voters want upward mobility & cleaner govts, and that will require retooling the system nurtured for decades

Uday Chandra

Vijay's victory in Tamil Nadu is easy to interpret as the rise of another film star in a state in which cinematic acclaim and political success are enmeshed. It may, however, mark a more consequential shift to a post-Dravidian phase in Tamil politics. Post-Dravidian does not mean anti-Dravidian. It means that welfarism, social justice, and Tamil pride are now being detached from the duopoly of the Dravidian parties over nearly six decades.

The numbers reveal the scale of the disruption. Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam won 108 seats in the 234-member assembly, ahead of DMK's 59 and ADMK's 47. TVK, short of a majority, is reportedly reaching out to Congress (5) and PMK (4) for support. Nonetheless, TVK has already done something remarkable by breaking the longstanding view in Tamil politics that voters have no choice except DMK or ADMK.

Vote shares tell a more nuanced story. TVK secured 34.92% of total votes, ahead of DMK's 24.19% and ADMK's 21.21%. These numbers suggest that the two Dravidian parties still command a substantial base, roughly 45%. But more Tamil voters considered options beyond the Dravidian duopoly.

Compared to 2021, the combined vote share of the two Dravidian parties fell from 71% to 45%. Signs of discontent were visible even in 2024 national elections, when the duopoly polled 47% together. But then, DMK contested only 22 of the 39 seats in Tamil Nadu. This is why Vijay should not be read simply as a flash in the pan. A broader shift appears underway to a post-Dravidian politics in which a thin ideological core coexists alongside welfarism.

For comparison, let's recall the older Dravidian world of ideas. Periyar fused rationalism, anti-caste critique, linguistic self-respect, and suspicion of North Indian domination. Karunanidhi added literary culture, welfarism, and party organisation. Stalin retained this institutionalised model of social justice via a powerful cadre-based party, and an administrative welfare machine. Vijay inherits vast expectations produced by this prior history, without the ideological grammar of Dravidianism.

Voters below 45 have grown up in an atmosphere in which Dravidianism is a system more than a movement. Even as they may have benefitted from its welfare architecture, they are not bound to its founding memories. For Gen Z voters, first-time voters, and urban voters, politics is encountered through jobs, education, social media, cinema, and urban infra. These voters may value social justice, but they also want cleaner govt, upward mobility, and recognition as different or new. TVK speaks to this demographic, which is emotionally

Image: AI

Tamil, broadly secular, welfare-friendly, but impatient with establishment parties.

The geographical spread of TVK's vote supports this reading. Its surge is especially visible in Chennai and its expanding urban-peri-urban belt. It won seats such as Royapuram, Villivakkam, Anna Nagar, Thousand Lights, Avadi, Poonamallee, Ponneri, Chengalpattu, and Shozhinganallur. In Poonamallee and Avadi, TVK crossed 52% of the vote. In Ponneri, it won by more than 55,000 votes. More than symbolic victories, these wins point to a new political geography shaped by salaried work, education, real estate corridors, and everyday frustration with urban governance.

Nor was this only a Chennai story. Vijay won both Perambur and Tiruchirappalli East. In the latter, he defeated the DMK incumbent by 27,416 votes, drawing support from low-income groups and younger voters. TVK also won six of nine seats in Trichy district, reversing the DMK's 2021 sweep there. This suggests that TVK's appeal travels beyond the metropolitan middle classes. He has promised welfare without inherited party loyalty, Tamil pride without old ideological baggage, and change without absorption into a BJP-led national order.

Yet, we should guard against overstatement. TVK did not sweep Tamil Nadu evenly. Older caste blocs, minority concentrations, local notables, and alliance networks still matter. PMK's four seats, for instance, cannot be understood without its Vanniyar base in northern Tamil Nadu. For TVK, whose appeal rests on generational freshness and cross-caste aspiration, PMK is both an asset and a warning.

Congress raises a different possibility. In the old order, it survived as a junior partner attached to a Dravidian party. In a fragmented new post-Dravidian field, it may matter differently as it stabilises a new formation. After UDF's win in Kerala, alongside govts in Karnataka and Telangana, Congress is increasingly a southern party. For Vijay, Congress offers something BJP cannot: national connect without Hindi-Hindu centralisation.

Vijay's politics, in sum, may prove less confrontational with Delhi than DMK's, but it cannot afford to appear assimilated into a national ideological project. The likely post-Dravidian attitude is, therefore, negotiated federalism with secular guardrails.

If Tamil Nadu's older exceptionalism in national politics lay in the dominance of Dravidian parties, it may now lie in the resilience of Dravidian political common sense in a new post-duopoly party system. Welfare, Tamil identity, secular caution, and federal bargaining remain, albeit in a new generation.

Vijay's challenge begins now. If he fails to turn charisma into organisation, and novelty into governance, 2026 will be remembered as a spectacular interruption. If he succeeds, a new post-Dravidian future beckons.

The writer is a political analyst

When The Voice That Once Called Out "Didi" Falls Silent

Defeat has exposed in TMC a rot that runs deep. Plus, like Pawars & Yadavs, Banerjees will see intra-family strains testing political bonds. BJP will be relentless. Mamata's first test, and a tough one, will be upcoming municipal & panchayat polls

Sayantan Ghosh

She was looking tired, surrounded by central security forces who were pushing her own security detail further away, creating a distance that felt more than physical. At 71, the strain of the moment showed. Mamata Banerjee was speaking to media outside the Bhabanipur counting centre. She stood there in her white sari with the blue border, but with the drape no longer careful, as if even habit had given way under the weight of what was unfolding. She was alone too.

She was alone because, in that instant, she knew Bhabanipur was slipping from her grasp. Not just a constituency, but a space that had mirrored her journey, grown with her, carried her name like a quiet certainty.

She was alone because even as she spoke before the press, raising allegations, speaking of manipulation, of manhandling by BJP workers, questioning the role of officials and the central forces inside the counting centre of Sakhawat Memorial School, somewhere within her the truth had already settled, heavy and irreversible. The people who had seen her as one of their own, watched her rise from a young, defiant voice in the neighbourhood to CM of West Bengal, had quietly withdrawn their faith.

She was alone even as a few tried to reach her. Her personal security officer and her poll agent tried to move past the layers of security, trying to come close, to bridge that sudden, unbearable distance. But even their presence could not alter the silence that had settled around her.

She was alone because she could already see what the numbers were beginning to reveal. TMC, the party she had built up with years of struggle, with an unyielding will, was unable to cross even 90 seats in this assembly election. And beyond that room, across the state, another colour was rising, spreading with a force that felt both sudden and long in the making. The saffron wave was no longer a challenge. It had become a verdict.

She was alone because her blue-white citadel had fallen. Not gradually, not with warning, but with a finality that left little room for denial. And in that moment, surrounded by uniforms, she stood with the realisation that power, which had walked beside her for most of her life, had begun to leave her. And that the voice that once called out "Didi" had fallen silent.

The void is unprecedented in her political life. Elected first in 1984, Mamata has known nothing but the rhythms of public office for 42 years. She broke from

Image: AI

Congress in 1998 to found TMC, served as a four-time Union minister, and became CM three times. Power was not abstract for her; it was visceral, the oxygen that fuelled her relentless energy. Losing it now, when her body shows the wear of decades of street battles and her party lies in tatters, will test the very core of her being. Power's withdrawal can be crueller than its pursuit.

The immediate storm is internal. West Bengal's politics has become a marketplace of ambition, where loyalty is transactional. Ironically, TMC under Mamata pioneered aggressive poaching. Now, with BJP in govt, and known for its organisational muscle in consolidating gains, the risk of MLAs jumping ship is acute.

Many TMC legislators will face immense pressure. Holding the flock together, without the glue of ministerial berths or administrative patronage, will demand every ounce of Mamata's legendary street-fighting skills, the party she built brick by brick risks crumbling if aspiration overrides ideology.

Compounding the crisis is the fact of two power centres within TMC: Mamata and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee. The younger leader has emerged as a formidable strategist, injecting energy, but also creating parallel structures. In a family-run party, such dynamics carry the seeds of future rupture. Indian politics is littered with examples – from the Pawars to the Yadavs – where generational transitions tested familial and political bonds.

Mamata remains the active, central decision-maker, unlike some ageing patriarchs who stepped back. But keeping Abhishek's ambition aligned with her vision, will be a delicate, emotionally charged tightrope. Any perceived slight could fracture the party at its most vulnerable moment.

Defeat has exposed a rot in TMC that runs deep – from grassroots to leadership. And now, any rebuilding of the party has to be done under relentless BJP pressure. Her loyal bases have fragmented: Muslim votes split, women shifted. Upcoming municipal and panchayat polls will be the first test, where defections have already begun. At 71, against a BJP machine that is neither regional nor fatigued, the challenge is Himalayan.

In the quiet moments after the noise fades, she must answer the winds blowing through her white sari: How many more roads must she walk before she finds her way back? The fight continues, but this time, it is against time, family, party, and her own shadow. Perhaps today, Didi stands not just defeated, but quietly undone by the very world she once built with her own hands.

The writer teaches communication at St Xavier's College, Kolkata

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacred*space*

The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.

Vince Lombardi

Tough Times Don't Last; Tough People Do

Sumit Paul

Our attitude decides how far we can go. With a positive attitude, one can succeed in life; with a negative attitude, one will fail to achieve the desired level of success. When there's hope, Lady Luck smiles upon you. A negative attitude fosters hopelessness; Arjun's winning attitude made him the most successful warrior in Kurukshetra, with the support of Krishn.

Duryodhan picked up quarrels, and that led to Mahabharat. Remember, the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, not our circumstances. Urdu poet-lyricist Nida Fazli said, *"Duniya na jeet pao toh haro na aap ko/ Thodi bahut toh zehan mein naarazgi rahe"* – if you cannot win the world, at least, don't lose yourself/Let there be a semblance of spirit and exasperation.

Looking at every exit as being an entrance somewhere else is what we call a 'positive' attitude. When you take control of your attitude, you take control of your life. "Tough times don't last, tough people do," is often attributed to Hollywood great Gregory Peck. In short, no guts, no story.

A positive attitude is gratitude to the universe; a negative attitude is the denial of the cosmos' benevolence. Appreciate what you have been given, and you will be promoted. Focus on an ocean of positives, not a puddle of negatives. Keep your face always towards the sunshine, and shadows will fall behind you.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Adolf Hitler's flawed attitude caused the Second World War and his own downfall. All-rounder Kapil Dev Nikhanj's positively philosophical attitude in the Final of the Prudential World Cup (1983) against the redoubtable West Indies – 'we had nothing to lose, only to gain' – helped the underdog Indian team defeat Clive Lloyd's seemingly invincible West Indies team.

The legendary pugilist Cassius Clay, *aka* Muhammad Ali, had an attitude that he would never bow before a white because the latter's pejorative attitude towards blacks spurred him on to become God of boxing. It was Ali who said, "To be a great champion, you must believe you are the best. If you're not, pretend you are." Battles, wars, and matches are won or lost depending on attitudes of individuals involved.

Belligerent attitudes of a few heads of state have spawned wars, violence and depredation in many parts of the world. Mankind is teeming with inspiring and uninspiring experiences and episodes related to a person, country, or community's individual or collective attitude. If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden, and if you look the wrong way, the world is a desert. We say in Hindi, *jaisi drishti, vaisi srishti* – the world is how you perceive it.

A man sees in the world what he carries in his heart. The most important thing you'll ever wear is your attitude. *Attitude*, a word we use so casually today, springs from the Latin *aptitudo* – a state of fitness, of being naturally aligned – born from *aptus*, meaning 'fit' or 'suited'. In Italian, *attitudine* suggests the posture one assumes before the world. Be always in the thick of action. Never quit or give up because age wrinkles the body, quitting wrinkles the soul. Develop a positive attitude because that's certitude.

TMC lost more vote share in seats with high voter deletion

Atul.Thakur@timesofindia.com

Did the BJP gain from voters being deleted under SIR in Bengal? There isn't a simple yes/no answer, but comparing the electorate in 2026 with 2024 as well as the reduction linked only to the 'logical discrepancy' criteria in the SIR, suggests that the BJP may have gained a bit in constituencies with a high level of deletions. The constituencies are identified as high, low and average deletion according to the percentage of electors whose names were deleted. In the 2024 to 2026 comparison, high denotes seats with 12% or more deletions, average is where deletions were between 8% and 12% and low is less than 8%. In the logical discrepancy criteria, high are seats that saw over 5% deletion, 3-5% is average and below 3% is low.

The correlation between fall in TMC's vote share and voter deletion does not necessarily imply cause and effect.

LOW DELETION

In seats with low deletion vs 2024, BJP gained 58 seats over its 2021 tally, while its vote share rose 7%—slightly below its overall 7.9% increase. Similarly, Trinamool's vote share fall in these seats was lower than its overall decline. In seats with lower deletion due to 'logical discrepancy', BJP's vote share gain was higher than its overall rise, while TMC's fall remained lower than its overall drop

AVERAGE DELETION

In seats with average levels of deletion—both relative to the 2024 electorate and those flagged for 'logical discrepancies'—the shifts are more muted. BJP's vote share gain in these seats is lower than its overall rise, while Trinamool's loss is also less steep than its overall decline

HIGH DELETION

The BJP's gains and TMC's losses are amplified here. In seats with high deletion vs 2024, TMC's vote share fell 8.6 points while BJP gained 9.9—both higher than their overall shifts. The pattern repeats in seats flagged for 'logical discrepancy', where TMC saw an even steeper 9-point drop. BJP's gains were lower than its overall rise, but still enough to flip many seats

Impact of 79 lakh total deletions (2024-26)

	2021		2026		Change		2021		2026		Change		2021		2026		Change	
	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %
BJP	34	40.3	92	47.3	**58**	**7.0**	18	37.3	42	43.8	**24**	**6.5**	25	35.6	73	45.5	**48**	**9.9**
TMC	83	47.2	21	40.6	**-62**	**-6.6**	49	47.4	25	41.5	**-24**	**-5.9**	83	49.4	34	40.8	**-49**	**-8.6**
Left	0	4.9	1	4.7	**1**	**-0.2**	0	5.1	0	4.3	**0**	**-0.8**	0	7.0	0	6.1	**0**	**-0.9**
Cong	0	3.0	0	2.1	**0**	**-0.9**	0	2.7	1	3.2	**1**	**0.5**	0	3.3	1	3.7	**1**	**0.4**

Impact of 27 lakh 'logical discrepancy' deletions

	2021		2026		Change		2021		2026		Change		2021		2026		Change	
	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %
BJP	41	39.6	118	47.9	**77**	**8.3**	19	38.9	54	46.5	**35**	**7.6**	17	33.6	35	40.6	**18**	**7.0**
TMC	104	46.8	25	40	**-79**	**-6.8**	55	46.8	19	41.1	**-36**	**-5.7**	56	51.8	36	42.8	**-20**	**-9.0**
Left	0	6.0	1	5.4	**1**	**-0.6**	0	6.4	0	5.1	**0**	**-1.3**	0	4.2	0	4.3	**0**	**0.1**
Cong	0	2.6	0	1.9	**0**	**-0.7**	0	2.3	0	1.8	**0**	**-0.5**	0	4.6	2	6.3	**2**	**1.7**

Didi has no option but to pave way for new govt, say experts

House Stands Dissolved Once MLAs Get Certs

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesofindia.com

FUTILE HOLDOUT: The legal position is clear that Mamata has to resign

New Delhi: Constitutional position is unambiguous on a CM refusing to resign after her defeat in an assembly election — once the polls have been concluded and certificates issued to the elected MLAs by the EC, the outgoing House automatically stands dissolved and its successor has to be constituted with the appointment of a new CM by the governor, who invites the representative of the largest party, or an alliance, to form govt.

On Tuesday, outgoing Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee stoked a controversy by claiming, in a first, that she would not resign since she has not lost the elections, disregarding TMC's debacle and her defeat in the Bhabanipur constituency to BJP's Suvendu Adhikari by more than 15,000 votes.

Legal experts, however, are of the view that Banerjee has no option but to go and pave the way for a new govt after the tenure of the assembly expires on May 8.

"Any person dissatisfied with the results can file an election petition qua individual position and constituency within 45 days of the declaration of results. Obviously, there can be no mass or mega election petitions. Equally, and obviously, the power to file such challenges in court cannot detract from the unquestionable obligation to resign and vacate CM's chair the moment the election certificates are issued by the Election Commission. Maybe it is a rhetorical outburst, but the legal position is clear that she has to resign (on her party being defeated in the assembly elections)," constitutional expert and senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi told **TOI**.

"This is the inexorable cycle of democracy and necessarily must be followed by all without exception. The continuance of an incumbent chief minister, after an election defeat, unfortunately will be consequentially legally void," he added.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, an expert on constitutional laws, said that if the CM does not resign, then the governor of the state concerned has the power to dismiss her. "There is no question of two CMs under the constitutional scheme. Constitutional morality and electoral mandate make it a must for the incumbent CM to resign and make way for the political party, which secured a majority, to form govt under their representative," he said.

"The moment a new assembly is constituted, the party which won the majority in the polls will elect its representative, who will stake its claim to form govt before the governor. The governor has no option but to call the party commanding a majority in the House to form govt. If Mamata does not resign, the governor can dismiss her," he said.

Article 172(1) of the Constitution says the legislative assembly shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting, and no longer, and the expiration of the said period of five years shall operate as a dissolution of the assembly.

Bengal woman's long journey: From domestic help to assembly

Kolkata: When domestic help-turned-BJP MLA **Kalita Majhi** returned home late Monday, she wasn't greeted with any major celebration or a grand feast. "I received my winning certificate well past 10.30pm. I had barely eaten and was hungry after a day of high tension. I had 'alu-potoler jhol' (pointed gourd and potato curry) that my mother-in-law had cooked," she said.

On Tuesday, the legislator caught up on washing clothes and other household chores after weeks of being busy with the election. As a devout Hindu, she observes a fast on Tuesdays.

"I won't eat anything today," Majhi said.

Married to a plumber in 2006, Majhi has been working as a domestic help in the Guskara area ever since. "I joined politics after being deeply influenced by Modiji's speeches. Despite working as a domestic help, I attended all BJP programmes while managing my responsibilities. It was difficult to balance party work with jobs at two households, where I earned Rs 4,500 a month," she said.

"I am very happy to have won and want to work for poor people like me. I feel so enthused that despite barely sleeping for the past few days, I don't feel tired," Majhi said, adding: "I believe BJP can uplift women and the poor and ensure safety for all women. We all protested what happened to Abhaya," she added. Majhi plans to take her husband and son to the swearing-in ceremony in Kolkata but is worried that she doesn't own a presentable saree suited for the occasion. "I am aware of my means and my family's income and status."

Krishna Patra, Majhi's employer, is delighted with her victory and plans to gift her a saree. "She has been working at our home for more than 20 years and is part of our family," Patra said.

—**Debashis Konar**

With Didi's nemesis Suvendu, Shah plotted her downfall

Kumar.Rakesh
@timesofindia.com

BATTLE OF BHABANIPUR

New Delhi: Pitting Suvendu Adhikari — who defeated CM Mamata Banerjee in his turf, Nandigram, in 2021 — against her in Bhabanipur was only the beginning of Union minister Amit Shah's determined bid to take down the TMC supremo in her backyard.

What followed was precise execution of gruelling groundwork and focused management that ultimately led to her stunning fall, capping the decimation of her party in Bengal — Suvendu's giant-killing achievement being the most dramatic upset of the elections.

But behind the headline-grabbing feat was a lot of 'silent work' on the watch of Shah, with BJP sources in the know saying the home minister had made up his mind to put in an all-out effort to defeat Mamata in her pocket borough as he prepared the spadework for BJP's path to victory.

With a combative Suvendu proving an able foil, Shah set out to put together a dedicated team for Bhabanipur to ensure effective execution of his strategy. Every night he spent in Kolkata, he held meetings focused solely on this seat, said a source who had been drafted for BJP's campaign effort.

That the constituency had around 25,000 Gujarati voters and 21,000 Marwari voters, communities that held the balance, Shah met groups of them separately and as they shared their views, with an informal dinner providing an affable setting. These communities alleged TMC members resorted to strongarm tactics to prevent them from voting in earlier polls and that fake votes were often cast in their names.

"They said if their societies were provided security, they would be able to vote freely. Shah ensured that protection was arranged at every such location," a BJP functionary said.

Shah's team also appointed a dedicated booth-level in-charge across every booth in Bhabanipur. Their job was twofold — to flag any internal rift within the party and to report any TMC intimidation on the ground. Shah's personal target was to get all BJP workers to cast their votes before 11 am and then work to ensure maximum turnout for the party.

BJP members, including MLAs from other states with whom different communities could relate, were also deployed. Through the SIR process, around 47,000 names were removed from the voter rolls in Bhabanipur — these were either deceased voters or duplicate entries that TMC alleged were exploited to cast bogus votes.

All the efforts finally came together to deliver a crushing defeat by over 15,000 votes to Mamata that few expected, even as she alleged that elections were stolen from her and her party through undemocratic means.

1 vote, 1 upset as TVK neta topples DMK minister in Tirupattur

Sivaganga: Photo finish in Tamil Nadu. One vote decided it. TVK's R Seenivasa Sethupathy unseated DMK minister KR Periyakaruppan in Sivaganga district's Tirupattur assembly constituency by the slimmest margin possible — 83,375 to 83,374 — after a count that stretched past 1.30am Tuesday.

Periyakaruppan opened with a 902-vote cushion (3,801 to 2,899) and stayed ahead through round 16. The tide turned from round 17. Sethupathy clawed back, building leads that fluctuated between 20 and 1,500 votes. At the end of EVM counting (30 rounds), Sethupathy led by 819 votes — 83,010 to 82,191. Postal ballots flipped the arithmetic. Periyakaruppan added 1,183 postal votes to Sethupathy's 365, collapsing the gap to a single ballot.

Officials said procedural checks prolonged the declaration. With a one-vote margin, 306 rejected postal ballots were re-verified. "When the margin is one, re-verification is mandatory. No additional valid votes emerged," election officer and collector K Porkodi said, adding the RO declined a recount with written reasons after explaining the process to party functionaries. — **Ahamed Ali**

In 82 Bengal seats: No. 3 got more votes than winner-loser margin

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: In at least 82 assembly seats in Bengal, the candidate in the third position secured more votes than the winning margin, indicating that a sharp vote split between the second- and third-place holders took the winning candidate past the post.

For example, Congress candidate Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury lost the Behrampore seat to BJP by 17,548 votes. The Trinamool nominee, who came third, secured 49,586 votes, nearly three times the winning margin, exemplifying how BJP benefited from the split in votes between Congress and Trinamool.

Several heavyweight Trinamool candidates, too, lost because of a similar vote split. And, in most cases, CPM played the spoilsport.

For instance, Chandrima Bhattacharya would have most likely won Dum Dum North for Trinamool had CPM not fetched 38,428 votes to finish third. BJP won the seat by 26,404 votes.

Aroop Biswas would have easily defeated BJP's Papiya Adhikari in Tollyginge had CPM not taken away 30,335 votes. BJP managed to win here by 6,013 votes. Likewise, Trinamool lost Jadavpur to BJP by 27,716 votes. CPM's Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya finished third here with 41,148 votes.

In Cossipore-Belgachia, Trinamool's Atin Ghosh lost to BJP's Ritesh Tiwary by 1,651 votes. CPM polled 11,151 votes here to finish third. In Behala West, Trinamool's Ratna Chatterjee lost to BJP's Indranil Khan by 24,699 votes. CPM finished third with 30,676 votes.

In Uttarpara, Trinamool's Shirshanya Bandyopadhyay lost to BJP's Dipanjan Chakraborty by 8,685 votes. CPM was at the third place with 17,136 votes. In Chandannagar, Trinamool's Indranil Sen lost to BJP's Deepanjan Kumar Guha by 13,441 votes. CPM again finished third with 22,760 votes.

For Trinamool, the vote split worked in its favour in Kamarhati, where Madan Mitra defeated the BJP candidate by 5,643 votes because CPM secured third place by polling 20,203 votes.

Similarly, in Domkal, the only seat that CPM won, Congress fetched 30,453 votes to finish third, allowing the Left party to defeat BJP by 16,296 votes. In Noapara, BJP's Arjun Singh won with a margin of 17,656, while CPM came in third position with 17,696 votes. In Darjeeling, BJP won by only 6,057 votes, while an independent, who stood third, secured 48,635 votes.

Final BJP tally stands at 207, TMC 80

BJP on Tuesday extended its tally in the Bengal assembly polls to 207 seats, securing Rajarhat New Town Assembly with the narrowest margin. Trinamool Congress was reduced to 80 seats, while Congress and Aam Janta Unnayan Party won two seats each. CPM and All India Secular Front bagged one seat each.

The saffron party's vote share increased from 38% votes in 2021 to 45.84% in this time, while Trinamool slumped from 48% to 40.8%. Though the 5% vote share difference between BJP and Trinamool was the lowest in the past three elections, it helped BJP secure over 2.5 times as many seats as Trinamool. In several seats, the winning margin was narrow.

In a nail-biting finish in the Rajarhat New Town seat, where counting concluded Tuesday, BJP's Pijush Kanoria edged out TMC's Tapas Chatterjee by 316 votes. TNN

'Hindus only' banner appears at Bengal temple

S Boral | TNN

Suri: A flex put up at the entrance of Kankalitala temple in Bolpur on Monday evening declares only Hindus would be allowed to offer puja at the shrine, one of Birbhum's five Shakti Peethas.

According to local residents, the banner was installed by unidentified youths claiming affiliation to "Sanatan Paksha".

"We have neither removed the banner nor endorsed it," said temple priest Baidyanath Chakraborty.

"No one is prohibited from entering the temple compound, but usually Hindus offer puja before the deity," the priest said.

Pulak Chatterjee, senior priest of Tarapith temple, another major shrine in Birbhum, said there is no restriction or verification process for devotees there. He said several non-Hindu VIPs have visited the temple and paid tribute in the past without controversy, underlining how such exclusionary messaging is at odds with Bengal's temple traditions.

BJP's local unit denied any involvement. Shyamapada Mondal, president of BJP's Bolpur unit, said he had no information about the flex. "We don't want to impose any new regulation for any place of worship. A temple should be run by the temple authority," he said.

I-PAC deal with SP for UP polls hangs in balance

Lucknow: TMC's drubbing at the hands of BJP in the Bengal assembly polls has endangered the chances of political consultancy firm, I-PAC, closing its deal with Samajwadi Party for the 2027 UP assembly polls.

A source said Akhilesh Yadav has not been keen on hiring I-PAC as he went through the agency's presentation at the instance of TMC leadership. I-PAC, founded by Prashant Kishor, has been curating TMC's poll campaign since 2019.

"So far, I-PAC had just made a presentation before the SP brass on their blueprint of the campaign design. There was no formal exchange on anything beyond that," said a party functionary. TNN

BJP's 'bhadralok' candidates turn TMC bastions saffron

Dipawali Mitra & Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

RECLAIMING THE SEAT OF POWER: Restoring the iconic Writers' Buildings for immediate use as the secretariat is proving challenging for PWD engineers, with renovation work dragging on for over a decade. BJP wants to bring the old secretariat back as the hub of governance, replacing Nabanna, where Mamata Banerjee had shifted her office in 2013. Even as PWD races against time, some officials said it may take around two months to make the complex — from where the new CM will operate — fully functional

Kolkata: 'Bhadralok' neighbourhoods of north and south Kolkata — considered impenetrable fortresses of TMC for over a decade — decisively flipped these elections, revealing a metropolitan electorate that traded its traditional allegiance for a "new beginning" under BJP.

Professor Maidul Islam said, "There has been a demographic shift in 15 years. Non-Bengali vote share has increased in Kolkata. Then, there are high-rises, where residents are drawn to the idea of having the same party at the Centre and state. Young voters' consciousness is shaped by social media, mainstream cinema and series, which act as direct or indirect propaganda."

For years, BJP was branded 'bahiragata (outsider)'. In 2026, its deployment of "intellectual insiders" played a key role in sanitising its image for a cosmopolitan palate. The selection of Swapan Dasgupta, journalist and Padma Bhushan awardee, for a culturally sensitive seat like Rashbehari and doctors such as Sharadwat Mukherjee in Bidhannagar and Indranil Khan in Behala West helped bridge the gap between the party's saffron roots and the 'bhadralok' demand for sophistication.

'Bhadralok' is a colloquial term that refers to the city's well-heeled gentry.

Political scientist Sayoni Chowdhury said, "We are seeing a consolidation of a neo-middle class that is less tethered to the Left legacy or the early TMC years."

Political analyst Udayan Banerjee said making Samik Bhattacharya BJP's state chief was a strategic move, as he had an intellectual persona. A south Kolkata resident said, "Seeing candidates who speak our language — both literally and intellectually — made BJP feel less like a Delhi imposition."

Cong paid for dragging Riniki, Zubeen into politics: Sarma

Guwahati: Assam CM **Himanta Biswa Sarma** on Tuesday attributed Congress's rout to its attempt to politicise singer Zubeen Garg's death, arguing state chief Gaurav Gogoi tasted "crushing" defeat for dragging his wife Riniki Bhuyan Sarma into a passport controversy.

"No party should bring Bhupen Hazarika or Zubeen Garg into poll manifestos... Congress sought votes in Zubeen's name, as they did not have support. It was a cheap political tactic," he said.

On Gaurav's debut debacle on home turf, Jorhat, he blamed a news conference where Khera accused Riniki of holding multiple passports and keeping assets in foreign countries. "Usually, people of Assam don't like it if someone from outside talks about their daughters. People of Bengal would not have liked me if I had indulged in personal attacks on Mamata." — **Mukut Das**

Wave of change rolls over three states, sweeps away two CMs, 50 ministers

Manash.Gohain@timesofindia.com

TITANS TOPPLED

New Delhi: Big political personalities were humbled in the latest round of assembly elections, with voters across West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala delivering a "vote for change" that swept aside as many as 50 ministers — including two sitting chief ministers — alongside several high-profile challengers in other states and a Union Territory.

In West Bengal, the setback was the most pronounced. A total of 22 ministers from the TMC govt lost their seats, among them CM Mamata Banerjee, who suffered her second consecutive assembly defeat. Banerjee lost in Bhabanipur to Suvendu Adhikari, the same rival who had defeated her in Nandigram in 2021 in a closely fought contest.

The rout extended deep into the cabinet. Thirteen cabinet ministers — including Banerjee — were defeated, along with five ministers of state with independent charge. Prominent names who failed to retain their seats included Swapan Debnath, Pradip Kumar Mazumdar, Bratya Basu, and Aroop Biswas.

Tamil Nadu witnessed a similarly dramatic churn. CM M K Stalin lost the Kolathur seat, which he had held since 2011, to TVK's V S Babu. The electoral setback extended to 14 other ministers in his cabinet, including finance minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan and education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi.

In Kerala, CM Pinarayi Vijayan retained his Dharmadam seat, but 13 of his ministers were defeated, including health minister Veena George and education and labour minister V Sivankutty.

Among other prominent losers was Gaurav Gogoi, deputy leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha, who was defeated in the Jorhat assembly segment by BJP's Hitendra Nath Goswami with a margin of 23,182 votes. Attempting to take on Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma while also seeking to sustain the political legacy of his father, three-term CM of Assam Tarun Gogoi, he was unable to translate his parliamentary presence into a victory at the state level.

Taken together, the results underline a broad anti-incumbency sweep, signalling that voters were willing to decisively reset political equations across regions.

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking), Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005, India,
Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064, Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in,
CIN : U24232RJ2011SGC035067, E-mail : edpssrmsc@rajasthan.gov.in

Ref No. : F.02 (439)/RMSCL/ED (P)/EMPANELMENT/DTL/NIB-01/2026-27/4211 Dated :- 30/04/2026

Notice Inviting E-Bids

S. No.	Item Name/Description	Ref. No.	UBN	Last Time & Last date for bid submission
1.	Analysis of Drugs & Medicine	F.02 (439)/RMSCL/ED (P)/ EMPANELMENT/DTL/NIB-01/ 2026-27/4211 Dated :- 30/04/2026	MSC2627GLRC00011	14.05.2026 Up to 6.00 PM

Executive Director (Procurement)
RMSCL

Raj.Samwad/C/26/2071

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PROJECT OFFICER, PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT, STATE HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT,
PWD Annexe Building, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
Website: www.shdpkar.in E-mail: cposhdp2020@gmail.com

No: CPO/PIU/SHDP/Technical/AEE-7/Tender-DPR/2026-27/213 **Date: 05/05/2026**

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM TENDER

The Superintending Engineer-1 & 2, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru is inviting tenders for Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for the improvements of about 1846 Km length in State Highway and Major District Road works to be taken up in Nine (9) PWD Circles under SHDP, PHASE-5, Stage-2 as detailed below, as per Standard Bidding Document (KC-4), KTPP-1999 Act & 2000 Rules and Request For Proposal (RFP) on Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method in two Cover System.

Sl. No.	Details of Package	Road Length	Amount Put to Tender in Rs. (Excl. GST)	EMD Amount in Rs.	Duration
1	Details available in KPP Portal 28 Packages	Package wise details available in KPP Portal	Rs. 20,000/- Per Km	Details available in KPP Portal	30 Days

▸ **Package wise details of works, EMD and Tender details are available in KPP Portal.**

TENDER PROCESS DETAILS: (1) Tender Documents can be downloaded from KPP Portal from **12.05.2026. (2)** Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled in this Office on: **19.05.2026 at 11-30 Hours. (3)** Last Date & Time for Submission of Tenders is: **26.05.2026 upto 16.30 Hours. (4)** Date & Time of opening of Technical Bids on: **30.05.2026 at 11.30 Hours. (5)** Date & Time of opening of Financial Proposals/Bids on: **11.06.2026 at 11.30 Hours. (6)** Henceforth, Corrigendums / Addendums and Modifications, if any will be published in KPP Portal only.

Any information about the tender can be obtained from O/o The Chief Project Officer, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru during office hours on all working days and also through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in & support@eprochelpdesk.com** KPP Portal helpdesk telephone nos are +91-9240214000 / +91-9240214001.

Sd/-
Superintendent Engineer-1 & 2,
PIU-SHDP, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/514/SMCL/2026-27

Government of Karnataka

Office of the State Mission Director,

Swachh Bharath Mission (Urban) Bengaluru.
10th Floor Vishweshwaraih Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore 560001.
Telephone: 080- 22867172 / 22866302, Fax: 080-22863576 /22861665
Email: swmcelldma@gmail.com,

Ref. No.: 1515222/DMA/SWM/SBM2/319/2024 **Date: 04.05.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)-2.0 -Used Water Management Unit for the Interception and Diversion works in 42 urban local bodies of Karnataka state, in a two-cover system under DBOT Basis as per KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000, details are as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of works & Indent Numbers	Amount Put Tender in Rs. Lakhs (Excluding GST)
1.	**Package No-3** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Nipani, Mugalakoda, Naaganura, Sadalga, Sankeshwar, Saundatti-yellamma, shedbaala and Examba ULBs of Belagavi District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WT/WORK_INDENT57759)**	2759.43
2.	**Package No-10** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Ron, Nargund, Gajendragadh, Lakshmeshwara, Naregal and Mundaragi ULBs of Gadag District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57760)**	1730.61
3.	**Package No-12** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Bankapura, Hanagal, Hirekerur and savanur ULBs of Haveri District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57761)**	1848.86
4.	**Package No-18** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Babaleshwar, Devarahipparagi, Indi, manuguli, Muddebihal, Sindgi and Thikota ULBs of Vijayapura District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57762)**	1762.90
5.	**Package No-5** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Chamarajanagar and Gundlupet ULBs of Chamarajanagara District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57763)**	615.34
6.	**Package No-11** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Channarayapatna and Sakleshpura ULBs of Hassan District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57764)**	852.79
7.	**Package No-13** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Chitpur, Kamalapura, Shahabad and yadrami ULBs of Kalburgi District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57766)**	947.70
8.	**Package No-20** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Hunsagi, kakkera and Kembavi ULBs of Yadagiri District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57767)**	1626.66
9.	**Package No-6** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Chintamani, Sidlaghatta, Chikkaballapura and Bagepalli ULBs of Chikkaballapura District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT56797)**	1563.16
10	**Package No-15** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Sindhnur and Lingasugur ULBs of Raichur District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT56787)**	847.11

The tender is invited in accordance with two-cover system through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Interested qualified bidders/agencies are requested to participate within the date specified on the KPP portal. Any information can be obtained only through the KPP portal.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
Directorate of Municipal Administration, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/501/Zen/2026-27

राष्ट्रीय सहकारी विकास निगम
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NCDC, Regional Office, 3rd Floor, KHB Complex, NGV,
Koramangala, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560047
Phone: 080-25702112, Email: ro.bangalore@ncdc.in,
Website: www.ncdc.in

Details of Authorised officer: Smt. Tanisha Lal, Regional Director, NCDC, Regional Office, Bengaluru, 3rd Floor, KHB Complex, NGV, Koramangala, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560047, Mobile No. 9311765334, Email ID : ro.bangalore@ncdc.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSET UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2OO2 READ WITH PROVISO TO RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2OO2

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/ Mortgagors that the below mentioned properties mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, symbolic possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of National Cooperative Development Corporation, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **26.05.2026** on the basis of **"As is where is basis, As is what is basis, Whatever there is & Without Recourse" through e-auction** for recovery of dues of the secured creditor from below mentioned Borrower Organisation, Chairman & Mortgagors.

Name of Borrower Organization, Directors & Mortgagor	Details of Secured Assets for Sale/Auction
Borrower: Prathmika Krushi Pattina Sahakara Sangha Niyamitha, Illal, Bagalkot Taluk, Bagalkot District, Karnataka - 587111 **Chairman:** Shri Mudakappa Bhirappa Belavalad Mobile - 9900446769 **CEO:** Shri Venkatesh Mobile - 9916939667	ALL THOSE PIECE AND PARCELS OF THE LAND OR GROUND HEREDITAMENTS AND PREMISES SITUATED AT Village: Illal, Taluka: Bagalkot, District Bagalkot Bearing Survey Numbers- D71, D72 and D73 having area 720.00 sqm; together with all buildings and structures thereon and plant and machinery attached to earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth. **Details of Boundaries of Property:** East: Road; West: Road; North: D-43,44,45; South: Road
Demand Notice Date & Amount	Demand Notice Date-19.01.2024 of ₹41,12,909/- plus further interest & charges thereon. Present outstanding balance as on 28.04.2026 is ₹55,15,090/- plus further interest & charges thereon to the NCDC by Borrower.
Possession Date & Possession Type	29.04.2024 (Symbolic Possession)
Reserve Price	**₹33,87,700.00 (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Only)**
Earnest Money Deposit (E.M.D.)	₹3,38,770/- (Rupees Three Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Only)
Bid Incremental Value	₹1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only)
Date & Time of E-Auction	**26.05.2026 from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm**
Date & Time of Inspection	20.05.2026 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Details of Boundaries of Property:

Side	Description
East	Road
West	Road
North	D-43,44,45
South	Road

Auction Sale/bidding would be conducted only through **wesbiste https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net** with unlimited extensions of 5 Minutes in each.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

For detailed terms and conditions of the E-auction sale please contact **https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net** and **https://www.ncdc.in.**

Sd/-
Tanisha Lal
Authorised Officer
under SARFAESI Act, 2002
National Cooperative Development Corporation

Date : 28.04.2026
Place : Bengaluru

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking), Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005, India,
Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064, Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in,
CIN : U24232RJ2011SGC035067, E-mail : edpssrmsc@rajasthan.gov.in

Ref No. : F.02 (220)/RMSCL/Proc./S&S/NIB-15/2026/1073 Dated :- 30/04/2026

Notice Inviting E-Bids

E-bids for rate contract cum empanelment for supply of following items are invited from eligible bidders:-

S. No.	Item Name/Description	Ref. No.	UBN	Estimated Value in Rs.	Last Time & Last date for bid submission
1.	Surgical & Sutures Items	F.02 (220)/RMSCL/Proc./ S&S/NIB-15/2026/1072 Dated :- 30/04/2026	MSC2627GLRC00011	12.78 Cr.	18.05.2026 Up to 6.00 PM

Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in** and may be downloaded from there.

Executive Director (Procurement)
RMSCL

Raj.Samwad/C/26/2070

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited

9th Floor, E & F Block, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru-560009
Tele-:080-23118888 Website: https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in
e-mail: rgrhclgmtech@gmail.com

No.RGHCL 01/TECH (GEN)/24/2026-27 Dated: 05.05.2026

Short Term Tender Notification (Through KPP Portal)

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited invites Short Term tenders for the following work through KPP Portal from the eligible contractors.

Last date for submission of bids on 19.05.2026

Sl. No.	Name and Place of Work	Amount put to tender [Excluding GST] (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Rs. (in Lakhs)
1.	Construction of Post Metric Boys & Girls Hostel Building Works (G+1 Floor) for Minorities at 04 Various Locations in Bidar District. (Fixed Price No Variation) – Package – 3 (Halladkeri, Chikkapete-2, Humnabad) (Fixed Price No Variation). **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT60/ CALL-2**	1544.56	15.44
2.	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School at 3 Locations (School Building at each locations in G+2 floors and other infrastructure works) for Minority Department in different Taluks of Haveri District.– Package – 5 (1) Naregal Place, Hanagal Taluk, 2) Tadasa Place, Shiggavi Taluk, 3) Tiluvalli Place, Hanagal Taluk **(Fixed Price No Variation)** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT71**	1506.57	15.07
3.	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School (G+2 Floors And Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Bellur Cross, Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya District - Package – 7 **(Fixed Price No Variation)** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT72**	502.19	5.02
4.	Construction of Moulana Azad School (G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Mailuru Grama, Bidar Taluk, Bidar District - Package – 1 **(Fixed Price No Variation)** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT73**	513.57	5.13
5.	Construction of Moulana Azad School (G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Hulaguru Grama, Shiggavi Taluk, Haveri District - Package – 2 **(Fixed Price No Variation)** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT74**	513.57	5.13

further information visit :
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/- General Manager (S D)

DIPR/CP/RO509/AAPL/2026-27

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No. : JHS-ENGG-HQ-2026-95 | **Approx Cost : 86511266.85**

Description of work : Virangana Laxmibai Jhansi-JHS/E-Provision of 20 units Type-V Quarters in officer colony.

Earnest Money. : 1730200.00 | **Date of closing Tender. : 26.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs.**

Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter : 18 Months

• Tender online can be submitted up to **15:00 hrs on 26.05.2026** • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in** **986/26 (C)**

North central railways | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in | @ CPRONCR

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED

No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road,
Bangalore – 560079. Phone: +91-80-29619801 Email: md.ksmscl@gmail.com

KSMSCL/DRUGS/RETND/PRGM/NVBDCP/2 DRUGS/01/2026-27 Dated: 05.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: Tender Notification No:

1. Tender Notification No: KSMSCL/DRUGS/RETND/PRGM/NVBDCP/2 DRUGS/01/2026-27, Dt: 05.05.2026 (IND-0384).
2. Tender Notification No: KSMSCL/DRUGS/RETND/PRGM/SHUCHI/SNP/MYSURUDIVISION/09/2026-27, Dt: 05.05.2026 (IND-0392).
3. Tender Notification No: KSMSCL/DRUGS/RETND/PRGM/SHUCHI/SNP/KALABURGIDIVISION/10/2026-27, Dt: 05.05.2026 (IND-0393).

Nationwide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:

1. **Re-Tender for the supply of Pyrethrum extract (2%) and Cyphenothrin (5%) EC for NVBDCP program under NHM Budget FY 2025-26 (IND-0384).**
2. **Re-Tender for the supply of Sanitary Napkin Pads to Govt Schools, PU Colleges and Hostels across Mysuru division under Shuchi Program Fy 25-26 (IND-0392).**
3. **Re-Tender for the supply of Sanitary Napkin Pads to Govt Schools, PU Colleges and Hostels across Kalaburgi division under Shuchi Program Fy 25-26 (IND-0393).**

Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 05.05.2026. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

Sd/- General Manager (A&P)
KSMSCL, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/ 511/AKAR/2026-27

Date of NIB: 30-04-2026

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

Email: biddingcell@rajasthan.gov.in

DMG/Geol./Bid(M)/5 ML Lst. Blocks/NIB 30-04-2026

NOTICE INVITING BID (NIB)

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10B of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, its subsequent amendments and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 as amended from time to time notified there under, the Government of Rajasthan has notified the following limestone blocks for the purpose of grant of Mining lease & hereby invites bids in digital format only from eligible bidders through electronic auction.
The details of limestone blocks for grant of mining lease and last date of submission of bid are summarized below:-

S No.	Name of Block	Tender Document Fees	Attempt of Auction	Start Date of Sale of Tender Document on MSTC	Last Date of Sale of Tender Document on MSTC website	Bid Due date and time
1.	HPSB-03 Limestone Block, Nagaur (6150,6158) for grant of ML	50,000/-	Second	30-04-2026	15-05-2026 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	04-06-2026 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
2.	Somna -I Limestone Block, Nagaur (6151,6159) for grant of ML	2,00,000/-	Second	30-04-2026	15-05-2026 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	04-06-2026 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
3.	Kehtolav Limestone Block, Nagaur (6152,6160) for grant of ML	50,000/-	Second	30-04-2026	15-05-2026 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	04-06-2026 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
4.	Minyun Ki Dhani (North) Limestone Block, Jaisalmer (6153,6161) for grant of ML	2,00,000/-	First	30-04-2026	15-05-2026 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	04-06-2026 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)
5.	Gilund Limestone Block, Chittaurgarh (6154, 6162) for grant of ML	2,00,000/-	First	30-04-2026	15-05-2026 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	04-06-2026 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)

The interested and eligible bidders, upon registration on MSTC website <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcln/index.jsp> will obtain login ID and Password. After successful registration, the eligible bidder can purchase the Tender Document online on payment of the tender fee and can participate in the e-auction process.

If a bidder had already purchased the tender document during the first attempt of auction for a specific block, then in the second attempt of auction, the tender document will be available for download to that same bidder only for the same block, upon payment of a non-refundable Tender Document fee of INR 25,000/- (Indian Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand Only).

The GST at the rate of 18% is applicable on the purchase of tender document. The GST applicable is to be submitted by the prospective bidder itself and the copy of receipt is to be attached with the technical bid. The prospective bidder shall be solely responsible for remitting the GST as per applicable law and statutory liability in this regard will be responsibility of prospective bidder and no liability whatsoever shall be borne by the DMGR/MSTC.

Detailed terms and conditions, deadlines etc. for participation in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. The Model Tender Document and the Mineral Block Summary is available free of cost in electronic form and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Ltd, < https ://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcln/index.jsp>: and Department of Mines & Geology <www.mines.rajasthan.gov.in > for the purpose of information only. Timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process are available on the website of < https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcln/index.jsp>.

Any revision, clarifications, addendum, corrigendum, time extensions, etc. to the above tender documents will be hosted on websites < https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcln/index.jsp>: and <www.mines.rajasthan.gov.in> only and no separate notifications shall be issued in the press.

Director
Department of Mines & Geology
Rajasthan, Udaipur

DIPR/C/7809/2026

25001/53/2627

By E_Maille-Despatch
E_MailID :serw_balasore@yahoo.in
Ph-No-06782/260318
Balia, Balasore

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work

Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 66 for 2026-27
Letter No.1997 Date - 23/04/2026

1. Name of the work : **MMSY (Mission PoWaR)**
2. Total No. of work : **24 Nos. of work.**
3. Estimated Cost : As per annexure
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : As per annexure.
5. Period of Completion : As per annexure.
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding From	Availability of tender On-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E.R.W. Circle, Balasore: Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	NCB No.-66 of 2026-27	10.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M	25.05.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	22.05.2026 up to 1.00 P.M.	26.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	**Will be intimated later**

● Further details can be seen from the website: **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Balasore
OIPR-25001/25105/1/26-27/0001

34001/162/2627

Mail ID: - sepwdbalangir@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE: BALANGIR

e-Procurement Notice

BID IDENTIFICATION No: CCE(R&B) BGR/01/ 2026-27
Letter No-1331 // Dtd. 29.04.2096

The **Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for the construction of works detailed in the table below from "A" Class Contractor registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

1. Nature of Work : Building
2. No. of tender : Building work- 1No.
3. Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/-
4. Class of Contractor : "A" Class
5. Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids : From Dt. 08.05.2026, 06.55 P.M. to Dt. 25.05.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.
6. Date of opening Bid : Dt.26.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M.
7. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **http://tendersorissa.gov.in**. All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer,
Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir
OIPR-34001/34131/1/26-27/0005

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026

EVER TRIED. EVER FAILED. NO MATTER. TRY AGAIN. FAIL AGAIN. FAIL BETTER
— SAMUEL BECKETT

FIRST GROUP OF TONY NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED; DANIEL RADCLIFFE, ROSE BYRNE PICK UP NODS

YOKO SAYS 'OH NO': PUBLICITY DUE TO STOP NOTICE ON 'JOHN LEMON' MAKES THE BEER FLY OFF SHELVES

Trump asks Iran to do 'smart thing' to end war as strikes test truce. No, says Tehran

US President Donald Trump urged Iran Tuesday to "do the smart thing" and make a deal, saying even as West Asia ceasefire teetered that he did not want to kill more Iranians.

"They should do the smart thing, because we don't want to go in and kill people. Really don't," Trump said.

US military leaders said a ceasefire remains in effect a day after Iran was blamed for new attacks in the Strait of Hormuz and against UAE. The key American ally later said it came under Iranian drone and missile attack again on Tuesday.

Still, the fragile truce reached nearly a month ago appeared to be holding as US forces pressed ahead with efforts to reopen the strait.

Dismissing Iran's military capability, Trump said Tehran "should wave the white flag of surrender" but is too proud to do so, adding that Iran's military has been reduced to firing "peashooters" and that Tehran privately wants to make a deal despite its public saberrattling. "We're in a little skirmish military. I call it a skirmish, because Iran has no chance," the US president said.

Rejecting the demand, Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian said US pursues a policy of maximum pressure and wants Iran to surrender to its unilateral demands, which is impossible.

Defence secretary Pete Hegseth and Gen Dan Caine, the US military's top officer, told a news conference Tuesday that Iran's renewed attacks hadn't reached the threshold of what Caine called "major combat operations". He said Tuesday marked a "quieter" day in the strait. "No, the ceasefire is not over," Hegseth said. They spoke before the latest attacks on UAE. Caine said more than 100 US military aircraft are patrolling skies around the strait.

Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf signalled Tehran has yet to fully respond to the US attempt to reopen the waterway. AGENCIES

AP

CRY OF DEFIANCE: Pro-govt demonstrators chant slogans at Enqelab-e-Eslami square in Tehran on Monday evening

Bessent slams China over Iran support

US treasury secretary Scott Bessent has hit out at China for "funding the largest state sponsor of terrorism" by maintaining energy ties with Iran, asserting that Beijing must support Washington's initiatives to "reopen the Strait of Hormuz", according to Fox News. The critique comes days before Trump's visit to Beijing to meet President Xi Jinping and even as Iran foreign minister Abbas Araghchi is travelling to Beijing for talks with his counterpart Wang Yi. AGENCIES

Iraq cuts oil price for Hormuz trade

Iraq is offering its term buyers huge discounts for crude loaded this month, but tankers will have to transit the Strait of Hormuz to collect the barrels deep inside the Persian Gulf just as hostilities flare in the region. The Opec producer is offering discounts to official prices of as much as $33.4 a barrel for its flagship Basrah Medium crude, according to a notice from state oil marketer SOMO. The document is dated May 3, and lists a range of pricing levels this month. BLOOMBERG

Human hantavirus transmission suspected on cruise, says WHO

London/Geneva: WHO said on Tuesday that it suspects some rare human to human transmission took place between very close contacts on board a luxury cruise ship hit by seven confirmed or suspected hantavirus cases.

Human to human transmission is not common, and the UN health agency reiterated that the risk to the wider public was low from a disease typically spread from contact with infected rodents.

A Dutch couple and a German have died, while a British national was evacuated and is in intensive care in South Africa, officials said. Three more people with suspected cases are still on board the Dutch-flagged MV Hondius. The ship is marooned off Cape Verde, which has not allowed the vessel to put passengers ashore.

Spain said it would not decide where the ship would dock until epidemiological data had been analysed. A health ministry statement came shortly after WHO epidemic and pandemic preparedness director Maria Van Kerkhove said the ship would head for Canary Islands. The ministry later said it had held talks with WHO and an inspection would be carried out by epidemiologists. AGENCIES

AFP

Dutch-flagged MV Hondius is marooned off Cape Verde

DAILY PLANET

Russian attacks kill 22 in Ukraine

Russian attacks on Ukraine killed at least 22 people on Tuesday as the deadline approached for a proposal from Kyiv for an open-ended ceasefire to begin at midnight on Wednesday. Russia announced a ceasefire for May 8-9, when it commemorates victory over Nazi Germany in WWII. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned Moscow's "utter cynicism" for attacking while seeking a truce for its parade.

26 killed in fireworks factory blast in China

A blast at a fireworks factory in China on Monday killed at least 26 people and injured 61, while flattening buildings, state media reported. President Xi Jinping has ordered an investigation. More than 1,500 firefighters, medical personnel and police were deployed, together with 18 drones and robots, to search for survivors and control hazards in Liuyang.

Secret Service shoots man near White House

A man spotted carrying a gun in the vicinity of the White House by plain-clothes officers was shot by law enforcement Monday after he opened fire on them near the Washington Monument, the US Secret Service said. The incident led to a brief lockdown at the White House. A juvenile bystander was hit by the suspect but did not receive life-threatening injuries.

Court acquits Shehbaz daughter in graft case

A court has absolved Rabia Imran, daughter of Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif and her husband, Ali Imran Yousaf, of all charges in a money laundering and corruption case in one hearing.

Cleric involved in talks with Pak Taliban shot dead

Two bike-borne shooters killed Maulana Muhammad Idrees, a prominent Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl cleric involved in peace talks with rebel group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday, **reports Rajshekhar Jha**.

Islamic State in Khorasan Province claimed responsibility for the killing, which came amid a spate of assassinations of JUI-F figures in KP and Balochistan. Idress, a former provincial lawmaker from Charsadda, was shot dead when he was en route to Darul Uloom Utmanzai. The killing has also brought focus on the cleric's past differences with Field Marshal Asim Munir.

MS, xAI, Google will share AI models with US govt for vetting

Microsoft, Alphabet-owned Google and Elon Musk's xAI will give the US govt early access to new artificial intelligence models before their public release to allow checks for national security risks under a new deal.

Centre for AI Standards and Innovation (CAISI) at the department of commerce said on Tuesday that the agreement would allow it to evaluate the models before deployment and conduct research to assess their capabilities and security risks.

The development of advanced AI systems, including Anthropic's Mythos, has in recent weeks created a stir globally over their ability to supercharge hackers.

The ChatGPT-maker unveiled GPT-5.4-Cyber last month, a variant of its latest flagship model fine-tuned specifically for defensive cybersecurity work, following rival Anthropic's announcement of Mythos.

Anthropic has been embroiled in a dispute with the Pentagon over guardrails on the military's use of its AI tools. REUTERS

Publishers sue Meta over AI 'piracy'

Publishers Elsevier, Cengage, Hachette , Macmillan and McGraw Hill sued Meta Platforms in Manhattan federal court on Tuesday, alleging the tech giant misused their books and journal articles to train its artificial intelligence model, Llama. The publishers, as well as author Scott Turow, alleged in the proposed class action complaint that Meta pirated millions of their works and used them without permission to train its large language models to respond to human prompts. A Meta spokesperson said courts had "rightly found that training AI on copyrighted material can qualify as fair use". REUTERS

Nepal prez signs statutory council, union ordinances

Nepal PM Balendra Shah rejected on Tuesday criticism of his ban on trade and student unions linked to political parties, insisting the move would not infringe on rights. Student groups have opposed the decision and want the ban lifted. On the cabinet's recommendation, President Ram Chandra Paudel issued ordinances over the weekend banning the unions.

Paudel also promulgated the constitutional council ordinance, which paves the way for govt to appoint key positions in constitutional bodies. On Sunday, Paudel had sent the ordinance back for review to govt, which resubmitted it on Monday. AGENCIES

Bodleian's Hindu text on tour to mark 200th anniv

Naomi Canton

London: One of the oldest known copies of Shikshapatri, usually on display at Oxford University's Bodleian Libraries, is on a tour of UK temples in collaboration with Swaminarayan faith leaders to mark its 200th anniversary.

Composed in Vadtal by Sahajananda Swami in 1826, the scripture provides spiritual guidance for everyday life in 212 Sanskrit verses. The text has been printed millions of times, but Bodleian's manuscript has been written by the author himself. Swaminarayan presented this manuscript to the then governor of Bombay, Sir John Malcolm, in Rajkot on Feb 26, 1830 to foster cultural understanding with the British.

It will next be on loan to Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Stanmore, from May 13. A spokesperson said hosting it was a "profound blessing" as they were celebrating the temple's 20th anniversary.

Dr Gillian Evison, Keeper of Asian and Middle Eastern Collections at Bodleian Libraries, said: "Shikshapatri's call for compassion, ethical living and social harmony continues to resonate in an increasingly complex world."

Shikshapatri was composed in 1826 by Sahajananda Swami

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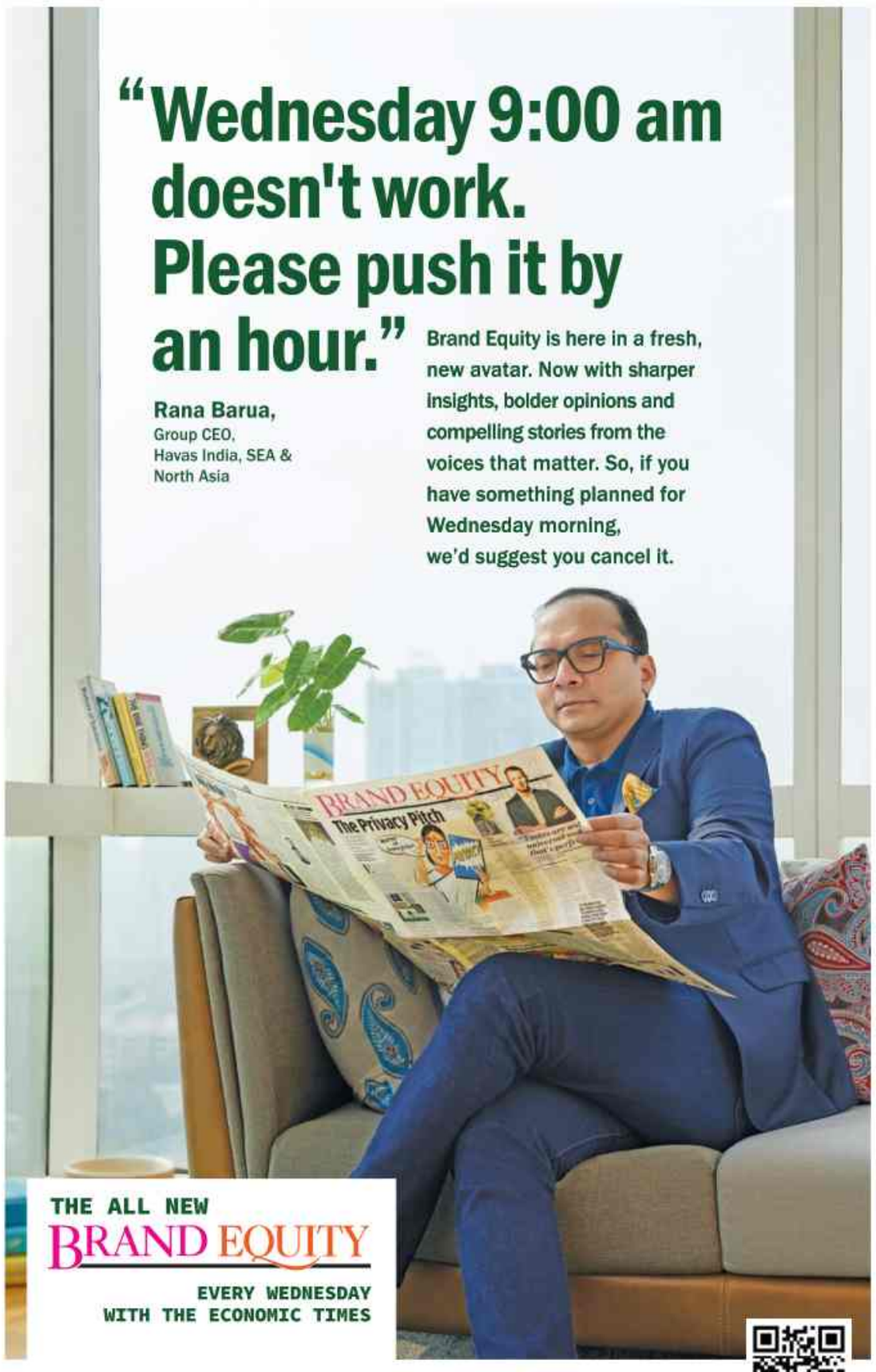
Rana Barua,
Group CEO,
Havas India, SEA & North Asia

Brand Equity is here in a fresh, new avatar. Now with sharper insights, bolder opinions and compelling stories from the voices that matter. So, if you have something planned for Wednesday morning, we'd suggest you cancel it.



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TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026

India's LPG consumption in April fell by 16.2% to 2.2 million metric tons YoY, as supplies were hit by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz

33.2 million tons of LPG was consumed by India in 2025, mostly as cooking gas. Imports accounted for **60%** of demand, **90%** of which came from the Gulf

India's jet fuel demand declined by **1.4%** to **761,000** tons in April, as airlines passed on the higher fuel prices to consumers

3.7 million metric tons of gasoline was consumed by the country in April, up **6.4%,** YoY

Local gasoil sales increased by **0.25%** to about **8.3** million tons in April

Source: Reuters; Mmt: Million metric tons

Pixxel wins US NRO contract

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Bengaluru-based satellite imaging firm Pixxel won a contract from the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) for hyperspectral remote sensing.

Separately, it announced plans to build India's first orbital data centre satellite with AI firm Sarvam. The contract, awarded under the NRO's Commercial Systems Program Office Strategic Commercial Enhancements programme, will see Pixxel demonstrate the use of hyperspectral imagery from its Firefly satellite constellation for intelligence and remote sensing applications. "Pixxel is excited for the opportunity to work with the NRO to advance the adoption of space-based hyperspectral data and demonstrate the unique value this phenomenology brings," said Allyson Jenkins, VP, public sector at Pixxel.

Coforge FY 26 revenue up 29.2% to $1.8 billion

Bengaluru: Coforge reported a 29.2% year-on-year rise in FY26 revenue to $1.8 billion. In the March quarter, revenue grew 21.2% year-on-year in dollar terms and 28.7% in constant currency, while sequential growth was 1.7% and 2%, respectively. CEO Sudhir Singh said FY26 was another year of strong performance, with 29.2% YoY and a 370-basis-point expansion in EBIT margin. He added that the company is entering FY27 with strong momentum, supported by an executable order book of $1.7 billion. "We plan to achieve an EBITDA margin of over 20.5% on a consolidated basis," Singh said. TNN

Temple readies first 100 units for early users

Bengaluru: Temple, the wearable venture founded by Deepinder Goyal, has readied its first 100 units for shipment and opened applications for early access, marking its initial product rollout since emerging from stealth. In an X post, Goyal said the company is inviting athletes, scientists, founders, doctors and creators to become founding users, adding that selected participants will help shape the product through feedback. "After you apply, we will get in touch with the selected few who we think will provide us the most critical feedback," Goyal said. TNN

Govt to speed up FDI nod for 40 items in six sectors

Move Aimed At Proposals From Neighbouring Nations

Times News Network

New Delhi: Govt has notified 40 items across six sectors, including rare earth permanent magnets, capital goods, polysilicon wafers, advanced battery components and electronic capital goods and components for expedited FDI clearance for proposals coming from countries that share land border with India, a move aimed at fast-tracking approvals from Chinese companies in select segments.

Besides, the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has also sought to fix timelines, including for security clearances, so that foreign investment proposals are normally approved within 12 weeks as part of an exercise to step up inflows, amid a weak rupee and low levels of new FDI inflows. In any case, most of the FDI cases are cleared under the automatic route, which means no govt approvals are needed. The timeframe does not include the period for fixing gaps and even there deadlines have been fixed. Further, the rejection of a proposal or insertion of additional conditions will need to be cleared by DPIIT.

"The regime for disposal of FDI proposals needs to be simpler to execute and more expeditious," DPIIT said in the standard operating procedure (SOP) for processing FDI proposals issued on Monday.

When it comes to FDI from land bordering countries -- the main focus being China -- apart from notifying the rules for automatic approval in cases with beneficial ownership of up to 10%, the new rules added the issue of focus sectors, which was cleared by the Union cabinet recently. Here a 60-day timeline for approval is provided for as govt is open to allowing investment from Chinese companies in making solar wafers, printed circuit boards, lithium-ion batteries and camera modules.

It, however, comes with the condition that majority shareholding and control of the investee entity will be with resident Indian citizens or resident Indian entities owned and controlled by Indians at all times.

Govt also rolled out reporting guidelines for investments into India from a company with any direct or indirect ownership by a citizen or an entity of a country sharing a land border with India -- China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Afghanistan. Investor must provide details, such as shareholding pattern, beneficial owners, organisation and group structure, promoters, board composition and key managerial personnel.

FIXING TIMELINES

Sharing of proposal with ministries, RBI	2 days
Initial scrutiny	12 days
Submission of clarification	2 days
Submission of comments by ministries, regulators	6 weeks
Time limit for approval	4 weeks

Investment plans rose 50% in FY26: CII chief

W Asia Related Uncertainty Slowing Down Capex, Overall Economy Stable: Memani

Aabhas Sharma & Sidhartha | TNN

New Delhi: Days after chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran's lament on India Inc's slow growth in investments, CII president Rajiv Memani on Tuesday said that investment announcements by the corporate sector in FY26 went up 50% to Rs 41 lakh crore, on the back of a 20% rise in the gross block of assets.

Memani, consulting firm EY's chairman and CEO for India region, sought to make a distinction between profits from pharma, IT and finance and other sectors. "If you look at conglomerates, their balance sheets and commitments show strong pipelines. Investments in energy, utilities and other areas are significant. But uncertainty means companies are cautious. They are focusing on supply chains, risk management, strategic buffers and maintaining healthy debt-equity ratios. So, investments are happening. They had gained momentum, then slowed due to disruptions, picked up again and slowed again. Overall, companies are conservative, and large projects take time due to approvals, especially in sectors like mining where timelines can stretch to five-six years," he told **TOI** in an interview. He said that there was significant investment flowing in sectors such as footwear, especially with foreign players looking at India as a manufacturing base, while acknowledging that textiles needed more capacity expansion.

On Saturday, Nageswaran had said that private sector capital formation remained disappointing although post-Covid the top 500 listed companies had seen an over 30% increase in annual profits.

Memani said that govt and Indian companies need to reduce imports and build resilience for which the industry body has identified 80-90 products, including electronic components and compressors. Asked why Indian companies were not investing in these segments, he said: "There is too much global supply already and pricing in India doesn't make sense because one country prices in a certain way that makes it very difficult (for us). Enough global demand or enough domestic demand is not there. Technology is not available. So whether it's technology transfer, PLI, some protection policy, clear direction is needed."

Overall, however, he was upbeat on how India Inc is navigating the crisis and govt had responded quickly to address issues flagged by industry. While it was too early to assess the full impact, Memani added, some industry players were seeing signs of a slowdown and price pressure was building up, partly due to a weaker currency. He also said that some of the cost increase was passed on in B2B transactions but retail prices have only seen a marginal increase in most cases.

The CII chief said that key risks lie in potential disruptions to logistics and energy markets. Higher crude prices, in particular, could emerge as a significant challenge if tensions persist, given the impact on global supply. "If the situation continues, logistics disruptions and higher crude prices will create challenges," he added.

Further, Memani said the broader uncertainty had affected financial markets, with IPO activity slowing, capital markets correcting and currency volatility increasing. "There's no sharp visible impact yet," he noted, while cautioning that a prolonged crisis could begin to weigh on growth, but pegged GDP expansion for the year at 6.5%.

CII has sought "targeted policy support" to navigate emerging pressures, including easing NPA recognition norms and addressing cost pressures linked to freight and logistics. Efficient gas allocation is also seen as critical, Memani said, adding that over the longer term, there was a need to strengthen energy resilience and domestic manufacturing capabilities.

> If the situation continues, logistics disruptions and higher crude prices will create challenges

> There is too much global supply already (in some sectors) and pricing in India doesn't make sense because one country prices in a certain way that makes it very difficult (for us). Enough global demand or enough domestic demand is not there. Technology is not available. So whether it's tech transfer, PLI, some protection policy, clear direction is needed
>
> — RAJIV MEMANI | PRESIDENT, CII

Biocon succession stays in family, Mazumdar-Shaw picks niece Claire

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, founder and chairperson of Biocon, has found her successor within the family. She outlined a gradual succession plan, naming her niece Claire Mazumdar as her successor. Taking to X, she said, "Claire will transition into my role at the right time—I'm not planning to hang up my boots just yet."

Mazumdar-Shaw has no children of her own

Claire is the daughter of Mazumdar Shaw's brother Ravi Mazumdar and Catherine Rosenberg. He serves as a non-executive director at Biocon. Ravi is a professor at the University of Waterloo.

Claire has largely stayed out of the public spotlight. She is the founding CEO of Boston-based Bicara Therapeutics, a Biocon spinoff developing cancer therapies. Earlier, she led business development and corporate strategy at Rheos Medicines, where she played a key role in advancing a partnership with Roche. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biological Engineering from MIT, an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and a PhD in cancer biology from the Stanford School of Medicine.

Mazumdar-Shaw began her career as a brewmaster before pivoting to pharmaceuticals.

She built Biocon from a Rs 10,000 garage startup producing brewing enzymes into a $1 billion biosimilars enterprise, becoming one of the first Indian firms to enter regulated global biologics markets. As of FY25, Biocon clocked $1.8 billion in revenue.

The 1990s marked Biocon's strategic shift from enzymes to biopharmaceuticals, leveraging its core fermentation expertise.

Lovastatin's 1994 launch established the company as a leading global producer in the statins market. The same year, it set up Syngene International as its custom research arm. In 1998, Unilever exited its stake, making Biocon an independent Indian entity. The company bought out its Irish partner in 2001 to gain full operational autonomy. In 2004, Biocon closed its listing day with a market value of $1.1 billion—only the second Indian company to cross the $1 billion mark on debut—making Mazumdar-Shaw one of the country's richest women.

The 2009 partnership with Mylan laid the foundation for its global biosimilars push, followed by international expansion with a manufacturing facility in Malaysia in 2010.

NEXT IN LINE

No immediate exit: Mazumdar-Shaw is not stepping down yet, indicating a gradual succession

Low-profile but high-credibility: Claire has stayed largely out of the spotlight despite strong credentials in biotech and strategy

Biotech entrepreneur in own right: She is founding CEO of Bicara Therapeutics, a Biocon spinoff focused on next-gen cancer therapies

Global academic pedigree: Claire holds degrees from MIT and Stanford, including a PhD in cancer biology

Industry experience with big pharma links: She previously led strategy at Rheos Medicines and helped drive a partnership with Roche

Govt clears semiconductor projects worth ₹3,936 crore

Times News Network

New Delhi: Govt on Tuesday cleared two more semiconductor manufacturing projects, with investment of Rs 3,936 crore, pushing forward its ambitions to build a domestic chip ecosystem under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).

One of the approvals is for Crystal Matrix (CML), which will set up an integrated facility in Dholera. The unit will focus on compound semiconductor fabrication and assembly, testing, marking and packaging (ATMP), along with manufacturing mini/micro-LED display modules. It will also provide gallium nitride (GaN) foundry services, including epitaxy on six-inch wafers.

The facility is designed with an annual production capacity of 72,000 square metres of Mini/Micro-LED display panels and 24,000 sets of RGB GaN epitaxy wafers. These products are expected to be used across televisions, commercial displays, smartphones, tablets, automotive displays, extended reality devices and wearables, said IT and I&B minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

The second project, by Suchi Semicon Private (SSPL), will establish an outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facility in Surat. The unit will manufacture discrete semiconductors with a planned capacity of over 1,033 million chips per year.

The projects are expected to generate around 2,230 skilled jobs. With these approvals, the number of projects cleared under the India Semiconductor Mission rises to 12, with total committed investments of about Rs 1.6 lakh crore.

2,230 JOBS

Loan initiative will help a wide range of sectors: PM

▸ Continued from page 1

PM Narendra Modi tweeted, "The ECLGS 5.0 approved by the Cabinet reflects our commitment to supporting India's businesses, especially the MSME sector in challenging global times. By enabling additional credit flow with strong guarantee coverage, this initiative will help a wide range of sectors. Our focus remains on empowering enterprises."

Information & broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters that ECLGS will have an outlay of Rs 18,100 crore. The guarantee fees have been waived, he said in a presentation. The scheme will be open up to March 31, indicating that govt is preparing for the impact of the conflict to be long drawn given the disruption in supply chains and the destruction of refining and gas facilities in the Gulf region. The scheme will be open to entities that had bank loans at the end of March 2026 and their accounts were classified as "standard".

Companies other than airlines will get up to five years from the first disbursement to repay the loan, including a one-year moratorium on principal payment. For airlines, the tenor is up to seven years, including a two-year moratorium. "The scheme... is expected to help businesses maintain their operations, protect jobs and sustain supply chains... By providing timely liquidity, the scheme will sustain the businesses," an official statement said.

Pass on higher oil prices to consumers, says IMF

Times News Network

New Delhi: Amid expectations of an increase in retail prices of petrol and diesel, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday suggested a pass through of higher crude prices to consumers, while arguing that India had headroom to navigate the current energy shock due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

"They (govt) have cut excise taxes on oil. They provide some fertiliser subsidies. This can continue for some time, not much more in terms of fiscal space. At some point in time, you have to allow price signals to start to flow. And that's something which is true for India," IMF's director for Asia Pacific Krishna Srinivasan said at an event organised by NCAER. He also argued that higher prices would temper demand at a time when countries were facing supply constraints. For the poor and vulnerable segments, Srinivasan backed targeted subsidies, with clear sunset targets.

The IMF official's suggestion that India had limited fiscal space, was countered by RBI deputy governor Poonam Gupta, who argued that in a comparative context, the country was much better placed. Citing data she said that India's gross debt as a proportion of GDP is projected to decline from 83.4% in 2026 to 77.7% in 2031 when the advanced economies, middle income countries, emerging market economies and the global level will be rising. She said that India had not only seen prudent fiscal policies but had also seen good fiscal consolidation and higher growth will help its case.

Gupta also pointed out that IMF's initial growth forecast had been lower than its revised numbers and underlined that the Indian economy remained resilient in the face of strong growth and benign inflation.

Separately, on the issue of monetary policy framework, she said that India could consider lowering its inflation target with a narrower tolerance band if growth remains robust with stable inflation over the next five years. Currently, govt has retained an inflation target of 4% with a possible deviation of 2 percentage points on either side.

Gupta said India's financial sector and macroeconomic stability are here to stay, and added that structural reforms help a country to build buffers and be better prepared for the next crisis.

High LPG costs to hit diners' wallets

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Mumbai: You will have to shell out more for your plate of pasta, a biryani handi or namkeen and biscuits because the high cost of commercial LPG cylinders, prices of which have recently been raised for the third time and by Rs 933, coupled with an increase in plastic and packaging rates are pushing restaurants and companies to finally take price hikes. Many of them refrained from increasing prices for more than a couple of months since the West Asia war started.

Speciality Restaurants which own brands such as Oh! Calcutta and Mainland China is looking at increasing the menu rates in a couple of days, said founder Anjan Chatterjee. For the company, the cost of LPG cylinders has gone up by Rs 14 lakh per month. "The rate of LPG cylinders has gone up exponentially. Besides, there is an apprehension in the industry that fuel charges will go up now that the elections are done away with. We are compelled to hike menu rates although the attempt will be to take minimal increases," said Chatterjee.

For smaller cloud kitchens and cafes, the bigger struggle on ground is to get LPG cylinders at a fair rate.

As of now, about 10% of the food cost was on account of LPG cylinders and this will now go up to 12-15%, said Sagar Daryani, co-founder & CEO at Wow! Momo Foods and president of National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI). "A price rise is the only option to keep business viable," said Daryani.

Food companies looking at price hikes too

Makers of products such as namkeen, biscuits may look at rolling out price hikes in the coming days to tide over the current price increase, an executive said. In FMCG, some parts of manufacturing are dependent on LPG.

Already, some players such as Gopal Snacks have taken selective price hikes even though the company moved away from LPG to other sources. "Although the availability of cylinders has improved, the rates remain a concern now and it has a direct impact on our conversion cost," said Mayank Shah, chief marketing officer at Parle Products.

10-15% PRICE RISE ON CARDS

- Prices of commercial LPG cylinders were **raised by a hefty ₹933 at the start of May**
- **For Speciality Restaurants,** the cost of LPG cylinders has gone up by ₹14 lakh per month
- Among QSRs, **Jubilant FoodWorks is the most exposed with about 75-80% of LPG dependence,** said Karan Taurani, EVP at Elara Capital
- **Many cloud kitchens are trying to switch to induction cooktops,** but there's a long wait period, **according to Sandeep Jangala, founder & CEO at Yummy Bee.** He said a 10-15% price increase is being rolled out across all outlets

Facing bottle shortage, beer cos seek price hike

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New Delhi: Unlike some of the soft drinks majors, for beer makers, cans are not a worry, but bottles are. Bottles, which make up for as much as 40-45% of the cost, and are used in nearly 80% of the sales are in short supply, prompting companies to seek a 15-20% increase in prices and release of payments from the states.

Although companies are complaining of aluminium supplies being affected due to the Strait of Hormuz blockade, beer industry representatives said that they were not encountering shortages, with nearly 80% of their requirement met domestically. "The gas shortage is affecting bottle manufacturers and along with an increase in the cost of cartons, the industry is grappling with significant price pressure," said Vinod Giri, director general of Brewers Association of India.

While gas supply has been stepped up, it is nowhere close to pre-Feb 28 levels with companies depending on the fuel having to tackle supply as well as price issues. Giri said that companies as well as the industry body are in talks with state govts and the higher cost must be shared by manufacturers, consumers and govt. For states, excise is a major source of revenue and a critical one.

"Costs have gone up quite sharply across raw materials and packaging, and we are also seeing pressure on supplies, especially glass and cans. This is happening as demand is picking up, which adds to the complexity for the industry. Pricing is regulated in most states, with limited ability to pass on these increases. For the industry to remain sustainable, it becomes very important for pricing and taxation to stay balanced, with support from govts. In the meantime, the industry is managing through cost efficiencies and tighter capital discipline. Continued engagement between industry and policymakers is important to maintain stability, ensure consistent supply for consumers and support state revenues," said United Breweries CEO Vivek Gupta.

Some state govts have begun moving and have sought cost details from companies. Industry representatives pointed out that till prices are increased there are several ways in which states can help. Some states levy a manufacturing levy, which can be reduced, while others can release some of the payments quickly.

> **Bottles make up for as much as 40-45% of the cost and are used in nearly 80% of the beer sales**

TECH I'D LIKE TO SEE

DEVICES WE CAN CONTROL WITH OUR THOUGHTS

One technology I'm excited to see go mainstream is neurodigital interfaces – devices that let us control the world around us with our thoughts. You know how we use our hands, voice, or a screen to control things! Imagine doing it just by thinking. That's what neurodigital interfaces make possible – a direct link between your brain and devices. It sounds like sci-fi, but it's already happening. People with paralysis are using tiny implants to move a cursor or type messages with over 90% accuracy, without open-brain surgery. Some newer systems are so fast that users can type almost like they're speaking. As-and-when this technology reaches its potential, it would change everything – from restoring independence for people with disabilities to letting anyone send a text, control a smart home, or even design in 3D using thought alone.

Nikhil Shoorji | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GLOBAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, INFOBIP

TIMES TECHIES TALKS

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE DISCUSSION

Drivers of Reinvention in GCCs

Paul Jeruchimowitz
SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR & GCC PRACTICE LEAD, ACCENTURE

Lalit Ahuja
FOUNDER AND CEO, ANSR

TIMES TECHIES TALKS
Session Partner
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Hari Krishna Verma Nadimpalli
MANAGING DIRECTOR, GLOBAL INNOVATION CENTRE, INSPIRE BRANDS

Ludwig Heinzelmann
DIRECTOR, DEUTSCHE BOERSE GROUP, HEAD OF DEUTSCHE BOERSE GCC

AI Career Edge PODCAST

In the age of AI, value creation is the only job security

Live on YouTube. Scan the QR or go to the URL to set a reminder

Sanjay Menon | EVP & MANAGING DIRECTOR, PUBLICIS SAPIENT INDIA

FRIDAY
May 8,
11 am

Event page link:
https://bit.ly/Aicareeredge7

FIRST BANKING, NOW GCCs:

The rise of women in finance leadership

Women are increasingly powering global financial technology and operations from GCCs in India

Akhil George & Sujit John | TNN

There was a time, not too long ago, when India's banking sector stood out globally for an unusual reason: the number of women at the very top. From Arundhati Bhattacharya, who became the first woman to chair State Bank of India, to Naina Lal Kidwai at HSBC, Chanda Kochhar at ICICI Bank, and Shikha Sharma at Axis Bank, women were not just in senior positions but helming some of the country's largest financial institutions.

That moment was often described as exceptional. Today, it looks more like a precursor.

A striking number of global capability centres run in India by American, European and British banks and financial services firms are led by women. These centres span everything from core banking technology and risk management to advanced analytics and operations, supporting some of the world's largest financial institutions and increasingly shaping how they function globally.

The parallels with the earlier phase of Indian banking are difficult to ignore, though the reasons this time are more layered, rooted as much in the nature of the GCC model as in broader social shifts.

"Leadership in this industry is a slog. There are no shortcuts — you have to be consistently excellent and make the most of every opportunity that comes your way. Perhaps women are rising in financial services because they influence financial decisions more than we realise, and that perspective shapes how solutions are built and businesses evolve.
Sirisha Voruganti | CEO AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, LLOYDS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE INDIA

"The rise of women leaders in GCCs reflects how the ecosystem itself has matured — from workforce participation to leadership pipelines. Global organisations have embedded diversity and inclusion deeply, while the collaborative, team-oriented nature of this work plays to strengths many women bring, allowing them to grow, lead, and pull others along with them.
Sangeeta Kumar | CEO, BNP PARIBAS INDIA SOLUTIONS

"I think we're in a stage in the world where leadership in BFSI also requires individuals who bring a good combination of being able to drive more trust, drive more innovation, creative thinking... and then do that with a ton of empathy. I think to a large degree what I bring to the table from a leadership perspective is to be able to build trust, build a vision for the future, be purpose-led, be able to innovate for it ... but do it in a way that is caring, empathetic.
Ruchika Panesar | COUNTRY HEAD, INDIA AND CHIEF DIGITAL AND INFORMATION OFFICER FOR GROUP FUNCTIONS, NATWEST GROUP

"What do you need to be the head of a GCC? You need to have the ability to straddle multiple roles. You need to understand legal, you need to understand HR, finance, compliance, you need to know your domain ... I spent 17 years in a fintech before I came here. Now, I think women do multitasking much better than men ... I'm sorry, we do, women can handle five things without getting flustered. That I think is a key strength we bring.
Sheenam Ohrie | MANAGING DIRECTOR, BROADRIDGE FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS, INDIA

"Reflecting on my career over nearly 30 years, including more than two decades in banking and financial services, I've benefited enormously from the breadth and depth of roles I've taken on, from finance and technology consulting to large-scale transformation and senior leadership positions. Rather than a single defining moment, for me leadership progression came from being entrusted with larger, more complex mandates.
Anahita Tiwari | MANAGING DIRECTOR, HEAD OF INDIA GLOBAL CENTERS, MORGAN STANLEY

The GCC fillip

Sirisha Voruganti still remembers what it meant to be employee number one. When Lloyds Banking Group decided to build out its technology centre in India, she was the first hire, tasked with creating not just a team but an entire capability from the ground up. A decade on, that centre has grown into a critical engine for the bank's global technology roadmap, working on everything from core banking systems to digital identity and analytics.

Voruganti, now chief executive and managing director of Lloyds Technology Centre India, offers a pragmatic explanation on why so many women are in such leadership positions. "A lot of payment decisions are either taken by women or influenced by women," she says, suggesting that the industry itself may naturally lend itself to female leadership. "You're influencing those decisions, architecting solutions, and perhaps that has something to do with why you see so many women growing in this space."

Her rise has been anything but accidental. With more than three decades in the industry, including stints at Mastercard and other financial services firms, she describes leadership not as a breakthrough moment but as the accumulation of opportunities seized. "It's a slog," she says plainly. "There are no easy routes to the top. You have to make the most of every opportunity, even if it's just two minutes with the CEO."

That thought is echoed by Anahita Tiwari, managing director and head of India global centres at Morgan Stanley. Having spent nearly three decades in banking and consulting, she sees leadership progression as a function of scale and trust rather than gender. "Leadership at this level requires navigating complexity, building trust with global teams, and delivering at scale," she notes, adding that structured mentorship, internal mobility and rigorous performance frameworks have helped create "a more level playing field" within the organisation.

Morgan Stanley, one of the world's largest investment banks, runs extensive operations in India that span technology, risk, operations and finance, supporting its global business. Like many multinational banks, it has leaned heavily on its India GCC to drive both cost efficiencies and innovation.

It is within this evolution that women have found space to rise. Sangeeta Kumar, chief executive of BNP Paribas India Solutions, the GCC arm of the bank, believes the answer lies partly in the maturity of the industry itself. "This sector is now 25 to 30 years old. We've seen the entire cycle evolve, and alongside that, the percentage of women in the workforce has grown from about 10% to nearly 35–40%," she says.

BNP Paribas, one of Europe's largest banks, operates across corporate and institutional banking, investment solutions and retail services, with its India GCC playing a key role in technology and operations. Kumar points out that global diversity mandates have played a crucial role in catapulting women to the forefront of these centres. "The culture in GCCs is heavily influenced by global organisations where diversity and inclusion practices are deeply embedded," she explains.

These policies, combined with flexible work arrangements and return-to-work programmes, have helped address what Kumar calls the "leaky pipeline" — the tendency for women to drop out mid-career. Yet challenges remain. "At entry level, we see a 50–50 split, but over time it reduces. Social factors still play a role," she says.

Even so, the trajectory is unmistakably upward. Kumar also points to the unique exposure that GCC roles provide. "Teams in India often work closely with global leaders. That level of access accelerates leadership development," she says, adding that the collaborative nature of the work may also favour leadership styles often associated with women.

Different kind of leadership

That emphasis on collaboration and empathy comes through strongly in the views of Ruchika Panesar, country head for India and chief digital and information officer for group functions at NatWest Group, which operates a significant global capability centre in India. "I am a business leader first, a technologist first, and I happen to be a woman," she says. "It's not about gender; it's about the kind of leadership the industry needs today — trust, innovation, and empathy."

Panesar argues that the demands of modern financial services — particularly in a world shaped by digital transformation and heightened regulatory scrutiny — have created a natural alignment with these traits. "There is a match between what the industry needs in this moment and what leaders today are bringing," she says.

At Broadridge Financial Solutions' GCC in India, managing director Sheenam Ohrie says that running a GCC is less about specialisation and more about range. At Broadridge, Orie has had to navigate everything from compliance and finance to people management and technology strategy. "You have to be able to straddle multiple roles," she says. That ability to juggle complexity, she believes, is one reason more women are finding their way into these roles, particularly in environments that demand both technical depth and organisational agility.

Orie also sees this as a continuation of a longer story. "Earlier women leaders in Indian banking made people realise that women can do this too," she says. In her own case, that shift began at home, where expectations were deliberately different. Over time, she says, organisations have also begun to recognise the value women bring — not just in technical expertise, but in how they think about teams, decisions and outcomes.

Beyond the executives interviewed, the pattern is visible across the industry. Mamatha M direddy leads India global service centres for HSBC, overseeing large-scale operations that support the bank's global businesses. Madhurima Khandelwal heads the credit and fraud risk centre of excellence at American Express, a role central to managing risk in one of the world's largest payments networks. These are not peripheral positions but roles deeply embedded in the strategic functioning of global institutions.

AI's rewriting the mid-career playbook

Sujit John & Akhil George | TNN

AI will not wipe out jobs overnight. But it will rapidly strip away the routine tasks that have defined many mid-career roles, forcing professionals to move up the value chain, Mahesh Makhija, partner and technology consulting leader at EY in India, said on our podcast last week.

Makhija says EY studied about 5,000 jobs by breaking them into tasks. The finding was clear. "Around 35 to 40% of the current tasks are going to be eliminated. Whether it's AI or regular automation or agents, those tasks will go," he says. The impact will be felt across functions. A person who compares data from two systems, prepares reports and emails them will see that work disappear. Research briefs, first-level tax interpretation, invoice matching, and basic workflow-heavy tasks will also be automated. "Broadly, scanning information, first level of interpretation, that's gone. So you need to move to a higher level of skills," Makhija says.

Mahesh Makhija, EY

Mid-level managers face a particular risk. "If you're a people manager who is just moving people and staffing them from one project to another, you're in trouble. That can be done by your staffing bot tomorrow," he says.

AI CAREER EDGE

Know your domain

But there are other tasks that will be enriched by AI, and new tasks that will emerge that we can't even imagine today. Data analysis, for instance, will become more conversational and more powerful. Supply chain planners will use AI to understand demand, seasonality and regional patterns faster. New roles will emerge around orchestrating teams of AI agents, and bringing creativity to that process.

The safest place to be, Makhija says, is close to domain expertise, clients, technology or judgment. Someone who understands steel trading, or supply chain planning, banking operations, tax, retail or healthcare deeply will still matter. AI can process data, but it does not yet understand the lived nuances of a domain. "A trader knows exactly how to negotiate with dealers, customers ... No model or no agentic system can have gone through that whole process," he says.

That is why context will become a core skill. Prompting is all about giving AI the right business context. "If the prompt gives context, the entire generation and orchestration is better," he says.

Smaller, agile teams

The structure of work too, Makhija says, will change. Large teams will shrink into smaller, AI-enabled pods. A 20-person team doing requirements, design, coding, testing and deployment may become a three or four-person pod working with agents. Companies like EY are already under pressure from clients who see that AI can dramatically shrink timelines for projects that previously took 6 to 12 months. That also means costs too reduce commensurately.

So, smaller, faster teams are inevitable. But each person in the team will need multiple skills. The winners, he says, will be those who combine product management, technology and domain understanding.

"A product manager developing an app for a retail company, the person would normally have the requirements, understand the customer, do research, build a roadmap. But today, with AI tools, the product manager can start to create their own apps too. So product management and tech are coming really close together" he says.

This could create a sharp divide. Some professionals, he says, will become dramatically more productive with AI – "10x or 100x more productivity". And there will be others who are not keeping up.

Be more human

Freshers, too, must adjust. For those in programming, writing basic code will not be enough. They must learn to judge code quality, architecture, design and AI-generated output. "They have to be good architects of code ... How do you analyse the output of an LLM? How do you actually understand it?" he says.

Getting a quick assessment of code quality, he says, is a massive skill by itself today. "I shudder when I see some of the outputs I get. It is so clearly one or the other coding model. You can even say which model writes how. So there will be a lot of premium for that human aspect of judgement, which will never be replicated by models," he says.

Makhija thinks AI will eventually create more technology work, not less. "I really believe it's going to be a renaissance in terms of new jobs," he says.

But the transition will reward those who keep learning. AI, he says, will soon stop being a separate topic. "Today we're having a podcast on AI. But it's just going to become part of the fabric of how we work."

How India's helping this US retailer move from using AI to running on AI

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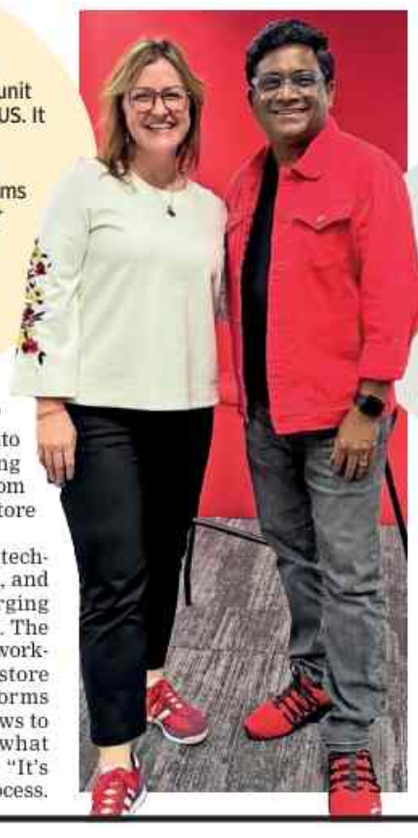
What a coincidence that the technology heads of two of the biggest general merchandising companies in the US today are Indians, and both Tamilians! One of them – Suresh Kumar, global chief technology officer and chief development officer at Walmart – has been featured on our pages several times. The other is Prat Vemana, executive VP, and chief information and product officer at Target. We met Prat for the first time recently at Target's global capability centre (GCC) in Bengaluru.

CUTTING-EDGE MADE IN INDIA

He tells us he grew up in Arakkonam, in Chennai, studied computer science engineering at Sathyabama Engineering College, and worked at Rane and Ramco in Chennai, before moving to the US to work at Syntel. He worked on early mobile healthcare applications, including on Palm PDA and WinCE devices in 1997, spent time at a think tank in Cambridge, Massachusetts, studied MBA at MIT Sloan, and moved through Staples, Home Depot and Kaiser Permanente – one of the largest healthcare non-profits in the US – before joining Target in 2022.

Target, he says, had long been talking to him, and was a brand that made his family "light up." Now, he is trying to put AI into the hands of everyone shaping Target's retail experience, from designers and planners to store teams and digital engineers.

"The India centre has representation across just about every single business unit in our corporate centre in the US. It allows us to unlock and drive solutions and impact in a really connected way, in ways that teams here can feel their impact to our core retail business and to the US consumer, which is really exciting.
Andrea Zimmerman | PRESIDENT, TARGET IN INDIA



Target is recasting retail technology for an AI-first world, and its Bengaluru centre is emerging as a key engine in that shift. The $105-billion US retailer is reworking its app, search engine, store systems, supply-chain platforms and merchandising workflows to move from "using AI" to what Prat calls "running on AI." "It's not automating a specific process. It's rethinking the entire process," he says.

The retailer is known for style, design and curated merchandise. Prat is empowering designers to design with more tools and intelligence in their hands. He's strengthening the store experience, while also investing in the digital discovery of it.

"We are moving from using AI to running on AI. It's not automating a specific process, it's rethinking the entire process.
Prat Vemana | CHIEF INFORMATION AND PRODUCT OFFICER, TARGET

Search is no longer just keyword-driven. Consumers are becoming more conversational. Instead of typing "men's red shirt," they may ask for "a jacket for extreme weather" or "help me plan a cozy movie night." The company has rewritten its search engine and product recommendation systems to be AI-ready and conversational. "A lot of it is driven from India," he says.

The app has also been rebuilt. "In the last 18 months, we have completely rewritten 60% of the code," Prat says. The aim is to make every experience composable and personalised. A guest looking for bottled water should not get the same digital experience as someone shopping for swimwear or apparel.

"We could manually create those templates, but we could also now have AI create the templates," he says.

Multi-agent system

AI is also changing the back end of retail. Prat points to supplier onboarding. Traditionally, onboarding a supplier means checking financial viability, industry credibility, product fit, ingredients in products, and compliance with Target's assortment standards. Target is building a multi-agent system to do much of that groundwork.

"We go from a three to four-week vetting process to a three-hour vetting process," Prat says. AI surfaces exceptions and areas needing human attention.

A foundational platform for this is ThinkTank, built by Target's India engineers. It provides a control plane for AI agents, allowing teams to see which agents are running, what they are doing, and how they are orchestrated.

Andrea Zimmerman, SVP and president of Target in India, says ThinkTank now operates as an integrated global platform, and continues to evolve. Prat says ThinkTank 2.0 will include multi-agent orchestration, auditability and context graphs. "When we go from using AI to run on AI, we know where we are running," he says.

The India centre's role goes well beyond technology. Target in India has been around for 21 years and has about 5,500 employees. Andrea says it now operates as an "integrated headquarters."

"We have representation across just about every single business unit in our corporate centre in the US," she says. That includes marketing, digital, supply chain, store operations, technology, merchandising, and design-linked functions.

Prat says the platform that decides which product should be fulfilled from which store is run from Bengaluru. "It's billions of calculations in an hour," he says.

The India team also works on planograms, store layouts, product presentation and store transitions. Every Target store varies by neighbourhood, weather, space and customer profile. A Manhattan store may look very different from a suburban store or a college-store format. Much of that intelligence is data-driven and operated from India.

Andrea says the India team is "obsessed with the guest experience in the store." Around 90% of Target's store remodels are delivered by teams here, she says.

CTRL+F(IND)

CONTEXT GRAPHS

Context graphs in AI are a way of organising information so a system understands how things relate to each other. Instead of treating data as isolated pieces, a context graph connects entities—like people, places, or ideas—through relationships. For example, it might link a customer to their purchases, preferences, and interactions. This helps AI models grasp context, not just raw data, improving tasks like recommendations, search, and reasoning. By mapping these connections, context graphs allow AI to make more informed and relevant decisions, much like how humans use surrounding information to interpret meaning in a conversation or situation.

"I WISH ROHIT'S INJURY HAD HEALED A LITTLE EARLIER. WHO KNOWS, THEY MIGHT HAVE WON A GAME OR TWO DURING THAT LOSING STREAK AND WOULD HAVE STILL BEEN ALIVE IN THE COMPETITION? A PLAYER CAN DO ONLY SO MUCH WHILE HE IS SITTING IN THE DUGOUT."
—Harbhajan Singh | Ex-India spinner

ANOTHER CAPITALS CHOKE

Samson's Assured Unbeaten 87, Disciplined Bowling Help CSK Brush Aside DC And Push Them To The Brink

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: It's not for nothing that the local crowd here invariably supports the visiting teams. There are very few teams that look as out of place in home conditions as Delhi Capitals do at the Ferozeshah Kotla. For the second match in a row, the Capitals brought their unsure and inept batting forward to post 155/7 for Chennai Super Kings to chase it down with eight wickets and 15 balls to spare on Tuesday.

The stadium had turned yellow in favour of CSK despite MS Dhoni not even travelling for the game. The deafening roar after each wicket must have been intimidating for Delhi Capitals. That doesn't help when you are playing for your survival in the tournament. At the end of the day, CSK's bowling and Sanju Samson's assured innings of an unbeaten 87 off 52 offered a lesson in playing on a comparatively sluggish surface. This is why CSK are still breathing in this tournament while Capitals are now pushed to the brink.

CSK applied the choke with left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein opening the bowling and returning figures of 1/19 from his four overs. Samson, batting with utmost composure and clarity, anchored and paced the chase to a nicety. That again is a reflection of his growing stature as a senior batter which helped the rookie Kartik Sharma to pace his innings with little pressure and score 41 not out off 31 balls. The unbeaten 114-run partnership is a sharp commentary on Capital's lead batters KL Rahul and Axar Patel's inability to step up in conditions that challenge your tenacity that little bit more. Kuldeep Yadav's sub-standard bowling, leaking 34 from his three overs, on a helpful pitch made another dent on his reputation

Rahul, as has been the case with him on slightly tricky surfaces, played out a sedate Powerplay which yielded 37/1 for Capitals. The slog off Hosein was almost a sign of resignation on his part as he departed for 12 off 13 in the sixth over of the match, while captain Axar Patel's struggles looked unending with a six-ball two.

Tuesday's proceedings may have been a welcome break from the heady run-scoring trend in the IPL. But it also demonstrated the modern batter's inability to find a middle ground when the conditions give the bowlers something to work with. Twice in as many matches here, Capitals were forced to use up their Impact Player in the first innings of the match. If it was Abhishek Porel coming out to bat at No. 7 in the Powerplay against Royal Challengers Bengaluru last week, it was Sameer Rizvi's turn to bring about some respectability at 69/5. But that also meant Capitals couldn't use their third spinner on a comparatively sluggish track to defend the score in the second half of the match.

It is now established that Rizvi is most comfortable playing sedate knocks in situations that don't demand a high rate of scoring. And he stuck to his game plan — an ultra-cautious start to his innings and then a flourish at the back end to finish with an unbeaten 40 off 24 balls.

Piyal Bhattacharjee

402 Sanju Samson is the second wicketkeeper after Rahul to manage 400 runs or more in this IPL — his tally being 402 at an average of 57.42, including two hundreds and a fifty, in ten innings.

SCOREBOARD

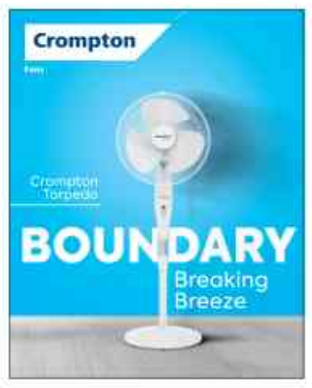
DC: P Nissanka c Brevis b Choudhary 19, KL Rahul c Gaikwad b Hosein 12, N Rana c Sharma b Ahmad 15, K Nair c Gurjapneet b Ahmad 13, A Patel c Hosein b Gurjapneet 2, T Stubbs c Choudhary b Overton 38, S Rizvi 40 not out, A Sharma run out 14, M Starc 0 not out; Extras: (w-2) 2; Total: (20 overs) 155/7; FoW: 1-29, 2-36, 3-52, 4-61, 5-69, 6-134, 7-149; Bowling: Hosein 4-0-19-1, Choudhary 4-0-31-1, Kamboj 4-0-49-0, Ahmad 3-0-22-2, Gurjapneet 4-0-29-1, Overton 1-0-5-1.

CSK: S Samson 87 not out, R Gaikwad c Rizvi b Ngidi 6, UPatel st Rahul b Axar 17, K Sharma 41 not out; **Extras: (lb-1, w-7) 8; Total: (17.3 overs) 159-2; FoW:** 1-24, 2-45; **Bowling:** Starc 4-0-30-0, Axar 4-0-25-1, Ngidi 4-0-30-1, Kuldeep 3-0-34-0, Natarajan 2.3-0-39-0.

Result: CSK won by 8 wickets.

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
PBKS	9	6	2	1	0.855	13
RCB	9	6	3	0	1.420	12
SRH	10	6	4	0	0.644	12
RR	10	6	4	0	0.510	12
GT	10	6	4	0	-0.147	12
CSK	10	5	5	0	0.151	10
DC	10	4	6	0	-0.949	8
KKR	9	3	5	1	-0.539	7
MI	10	3	7	0	-0.649	6
LSG	9	2	7	0	-1.076	4



Sunrisers look to regain lost ground

JAC.Gladson@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Early pace-setters Punjab Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad have hit a road bump. Their winning run was halted on Sunday by teams in the lower half of the table and that jolt could just be the wake-up call they needed to regroup and regain lost ground.

It's a long tournament and with everything to gain, teams are making their moves before it's too late in the IPL, where peaking early is fraught with danger. Kolkata Knight Riders have strung three wins in a row and Mumbai Indians found their range the other day with their big guns striking at will.

KKR and MI are still playing catch-up but with four teams having 12 points each and only a point — from the abandoned match against Kolkata Knight Riders — separating them from pole-sitters Punjab, teams will have to factor in complacency and fickle form.

Punjab Kings, whose middle order is being adroitly manned by skipper Shreyas Iyer, have had few worries on that count. Delhi Capitals will vouch for the force of the collective after KL Rahul's unbeaten 152 was laid to waste with Iyer brilliant in chasing down Delhi's 264/2.

The self-belief and can-do spirit in the Punjab ranks has been infectious with Iyer at the forefront. His catch to get rid of Hardik Pandya while still aerial and his game smarts to relay the ball, all in one motion, to Xavier Bartlett charging in from long-off was cleanly executed and stunning in effect.

Sunrisers Hyderabad's Heinrich Klaasen displayed some of that same clinical execution — also against Mumbai — and the hosts will need more from him in the crunch match against Punjab on Wednesday.

The quick turnaround after the defeats SRH and Punjab suffered to Kolkata and Gujarat Titans respectively on Sunday, when both teams looked flat and totally off-colour, should not be an impediment for the in-form teams to turn on the style as they look to pull away from the rest in the race to the playoffs.

WEATHER 30°C

141 Abhishek Sharma's hundred off 55 balls in Hyderabad on April 12, 2025, remains the only century by a Sunrisers batter against Punjab.

9 SRH have won nine out of ten matches against PBKS at Uppal, Hyderabad. Punjab's only win against them at the venue was by six wickets on May 14, 2014.

The Rickelton-Rohit chemistry lights up MI

Opening Pair Is The Lone Bright Spot In A Faltering Campaign For Team

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Mumbai: If someone had said before IPL 2026 that Ryan Rickelton would emerge as Mumbai Indians' standout performer in a team packed with superstars, it might have sounded far-fetched.

Yet, in a season where MI have largely faltered, its big guns misfired, the left-handed South African opener has been a rare bright spot. Rickelton is MI's leading run-scorer this season, with 380 runs in eight matches at a strike rate of 190.95 — the second-best among batters with 300-plus runs.

His dream run began with a 43-ball 81, featuring eight sixes, as MI pulled off their biggest-ever IPL chase and snapped their long-standing jinx of losing opening matches. He followed it up with a blistering 123 not out off 51 balls against Sunrisers Hyderabad. On Monday, against Lucknow Super Giants, he smashed a brutal 83 off 32, including eight sixes, helping MI chase down 229 — now their highest successful chase — with ease.

Rickelton has been central to MI's strong starts, featuring in three century opening partnerships this season. Twice, he has forged big stands with Rohit Sharma. The pair added 148 in 71 balls in the opening game against Kolkata Knight Riders, and followed it up with a 143-run stand in just 65 balls against LSG, making the chase a formality.

Rickelton credited their "chemistry" for the success. "Rohit is just really good — that's the chemistry right there. It's great to be back opening with him. He's been out for a bit, and to see him return and play so freely is special. We complement each other well as a left-right pair," he said.

"Sometimes he gets going quickly and takes pressure off me; sometimes it's the other way around. Watching him bat in full flow is a treat — he plays shots I can only dream of," Rickelton added.

The South African also revealed that he has benefited from Rohit's experience. "I've picked his brain a bit — not just about T20s, but Tests and ODIs too. It's not always life-changing advice, but it's about how he handles pressure, stays calm and backs his game. It's special to bat with one of India's greatest," he said.

Since 2025, Rickelton and Rohit have opened together 18 times, aggregating 825 runs, including three century stands and two fifties.

Much of Rickelton's success has come at the Wankhede Stadium, where he has thrived under lights. He now averages 54.50 at the venue in 12 IPL matches, with one century and four fifties. "I really enjoy batting here. There's nice pace in the pitch, you get great value for shots and the ball really flies," he said.

Rickelton has also had to deal with stiff competition from compatriot Quinton de Kock. He started the season ahead of de Kock, later partnered him when Rohit was injured, was briefly dropped, and then returned when de Kock suffered a wrist injury.

"It's been tricky having a player of Quinny's calibre on the bench. It can put extra pressure on you, especially when everyone is calling for him to play," Rickelton admitted.

"At the same time, he's been very supportive. He was the first to joke about me not getting a hundred the other night! He's helped me a lot, watching my batting and suggesting small tweaks," he added.

1 Ryan Rickelton-Rohit Sharma pair holds a record for the highest average (48.52) and run-rate (10.35) among the opening pairs with 750 runs or more for Mumbai Indians in the IPL.

2 Rickelton (82), left, & Rohit (84) have provided the second instance of both the Mumbai openers recording 75+ in the same IPL innings — vs LSG at Mumbai on May 4, 2026. The pair had first accomplished the feat vs KKR at Wankhede, Mumbai on March 29, 2026 — Rickelton (81) & Rohit (78). —Stats: Rajesh Kumar

ANI

ROHIT SHARMA AND RYAN RICKELTON OPENING FOR MUMBAI INDIANS...

	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	RPO
2025-26	18	1	825	148	48.52	3	2	10.35
2025	13	0	449	116	34.53	1	1	9.35
2026	5	1	376	148	94.00	2	1	12.19

CENTURY PARTNERSHIPS

148 vs KKR (Mumbai) 29-3-2026
143 vs LSG (Mumbai) 4-5-2026
116 vs RR (Jaipur) 1-5-2025

SRH hope for Nitish's return

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Hyderabad: Sunrisers Hyderabad's head coach Daniel Vettori said that the team is focused on against a very good side in Punjab Kings.

"Anyone can beat anyone on a given day. We are sure about the importance of this game but we also understand that they are at the top of the table for a reason," he said.

Vettori hoped that Nitish Kumar Reddy will pass the fitness test. "He's feeling a lot better. We don't see a situation where he won't play tomorrow." Asked if Nitish's absence affected the team's performance, Vettori said: "Nitish is like a Marco Jansen or a Marcus Stoinis in the Punjab team. They just offer so much balance to a lineup and makes my life a lot easier when it comes to selecting the team."

The Kiwi also felt that Punjab rely heavily on their openers Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya. "Their opening combination had complementary performances from their batting line-ups. Like us they they're very aggressive with the bat. So you would anticipate a high-scoring game and it's the bowling unit that can deal with that pressure really."

Punjab Kings' assistant coach Brad Haddin echoed similar sentiments. "SRH are a strong side and we need to get early wickets. Don't let (Travis) Head and Abhishek (Sharma) bat long" he said when asked about the plan.

The back-to-back losses are not concerning for the Australian. "It is about playing your best cricket right at the end of the tournament and that's what our team is striving for. They're striving for that perfect game. If we find that, we'll be hard to beat and that's what we wanted to be throughout the whole tournament," he said.

'Mental fatigue a big reason in Bumrah's struggle'

New Delhi: Former India coach Ravi Shastri has raised concerns over pacer Jasprit Bumrah's dip in form, attributing it to mental fatigue. "Bumrah has entered this IPL off the back of a heavy workload with India over the last 12 months. His struggles are not just physical. Mental fatigue is a big reason. Mumbai Indians need to look after him. The next two years is packed, multiple Test series, the 50-over World Cup. His workload will have to be managed very carefully," Shastri said. IANS

Pant is carrying a lot of pressure, says coach Langer

Mumbai: The Rs 27-crore price tag doesn't always guarantee performance but Rishabh Pant is facing the pressure that comes with leading an IPL team, Lucknow Super Giants head coach Justin Langer said after his outfit was all but knocked out of the play-off race. "I don't think the money has anything to do with it," Langer said. "What I do think is that leadership is a tough position and he is carrying a lot of pressure for the team. But he is chipping away, he is working hard," he added. PTI

Syed Asif

CHAMPAGNE MOMENT: Bangalore Occasionals celebrate their title win at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Tuesday

Bangalore Occasionals crowned champions

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a rain-truncated contest, Bangalore Occasionals made the most of the five-overs aside contest to annex the KSCA G Kasturirangan memorial T20 Trophy.

In the final played under lights at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Monday, Occasionals registered an eight-wicket victory against Vijaya Cricket Club. The match was scheduled to start at 5 pm, but it was delayed by over 2 hours due to persistent rain.

Occasionals skipper Kranti Kumar called right at the toss and opted to bat. The opening pair of Bhuvan Raju (36 n.o) and Naveen MG (23) gave their team a blazing start with their 17-ball 55 run partnership. Agastya S broke the stand, but Faizan Khan ensured the run rate didn't drop with his 10-ball 26. Occasionals ended with 91/2.

KSCA TOURNEY

Vijaya got off to a shaky start with medium pacer V Koushik sending back Aadharsha SJ in the opening over. With a mountain to climb, Vijaya fell short, finishing with 67/2. Samit Dravid top-scored with a 13-ball 31. **Brief scores: Bangalore Occasionals: 91/2 in 5 overs** (Bhuvan Raju 36, Faizan Khan 26) bt **Vijaya CC: 67/2 in 5 overs** (Tushar Singh 25, Samit Dravid 31 n.o).

TOP PERFORMERS

Batters:
Luvnith Sisodia (Sir Syed Cricketers) 300; Tushar Singh (Vijaya CC) 274; Karthik SU 216
Bowlers
Ajay Gouda (Palar Sports Club) 12; Abhishek Ahlawat (Vultures CC) 12 Dheeraj Gowda (Jawans CC) 12

Samar, Ruchitaksh power VVC (2)

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Visweswarampuram Cricket Club (2) rode on fine performances from Samar Vinod (5/36) and centurion Ruchitaksh Indrekar to register an eight-wicket win over Modern Cricket Club in the KSCA U-16 inter-club cricket tournament here recently.

Battling first, Modern were restricted to 229 in 46.4 overs. Samar was well-supported by Cherish Kumar, who returned 4 for 30. In reply, Ruchitaksh's unbeaten 136 laid the foundation for VCC's victory. His 109-ball effort was highlighted by 23 boundaries and two maximums.

Brief scores: Modern CC: 229 all out in 46.4 overs (Nethseek Dave 27, Suriyha M 107 (123b; 15x4), Khubaib Pendari 40; Samar Vinod 5-36, Cherish Kumar 4-30) lost to **Visweswarampuram CC (2): 230/7 in 35.3 overs** (Ruchitaksh Indrekar 136n.o (109b; 23x4; 2x6), Cherish 28; Krishna Hebbar 2-40, Md Faraaz Sharif 2-20). **Visweswarapuram CC (1): 97 all out in 31.3 overs** (Sanjit Sathish 31; Ahaan Dash 3-14, Paarth Madan 5-10) lost to **Vijaya CC: 98/3 in 17.4 overs** (Saad Khan 39n.o, Panshul Sharma 37; Swastik Ekhe 2-38).

Jolly Cricketers: 156 all out in 38.2 overs (Krithik Sai 26, Saatvik Sanikop 49; Samyak Kanstiya 2-21, Lalitaditya G 2-29) lost to **Century Cricketers: 159/1 in 20.4 overs** (Shamanth Raju 72, Hrithvik Shetty 59n.o).

The Bangalore Cricketers: 291 all out in 49.4 overs (Dherein V 84, Vedanth K 109 (101b; 15x4); S Dhananjay 3-51, Satvik K 5-59) bt **City Cricketers (2): 165 all out in 45 overs** (Parthaan R 26, Aadyot Dubey 25; Karthik J 2-22, Ishaan Kumar 2-29, Ayup Kunwar 2-30, Aryaman Srivastava 2-15).

Merchants CC (1): 61 all out in 20.4 overs (Vivaan Gupta 4-16, Anirudh Katige 3-8, CVD Karthik 2-7) lost to **Malleswaram Gymkhana: 62 for no loss in 6.1 overs** (Koman Prasad 41n.o).

Wadiyar CC: 241/9 in 50 overs (Yuvaraj Kumar 28, Nirav Bisht 41, Vignesh Srikanth 113 (118b; 16x4; 1x6), Pratham Rao 26; Raghavan Krishnakumar 5-40, Avyukt Mukkadala 2-53) lost to **Dooravani Cricketers (1): 243/6 in 38.3 overs** (Ayaan Mohammad 29, Krishav Karthik 79n.o, Sampath Kumar 70n.o, Vignesh Srikanth 3-44). **Friends Union CC (1): 185 all out in 40.3 overs** (Aaryansinh Chavda 107 (109b; 16x4, 2x6), Preyansh Naveen 42; Samarth BK 2-30, Chetas H 4-19, Aadyanth 3-41) lost to **Blue Diamond Cricketers: 191/2 in 24.2 overs** (Yeshwanth K 109n.o (82b; 21x4; 1x6), Nischal Gowda 27).

Caravan Cricketers: 197 all out in 42.4 overs (Shashank HK 73 (100b; 11x4), Ayush 39; Divij Prasad 2-37, Aniket Chaturvedi 3-36, Rahul Raju 3-19) bt **Vijaya CC, Malur: 133 all out in 31.1 overs** (Rajveer Chowdhary 4-40, Vivaan Bhusad 4-9).

Swastic Union CC (1): 152 all out in 44.4 overs (Aadyot Pandey 49; Vivaan Singh 3-35, Ryan Tomar 3-21) lost to **Spartons SC: 153/1 in 23.2 overs** (Ryan Tomar 70n.o (79b; 9x4; 1x6), Vastvik Sharma 52).

Engrades CC: 309/9 in 50 overs (Samvit Shastri 168 (131b; 27x4), Gnanesh Subramani 39, Mullamuri Santhosh 33; Shrevin Das 4-43, Nachiket Athale 2-46) bt **Yankees CC: 187 all out in 48.2 overs** (Aradhya Sheety 32, Shrevin Das 36; Sriman Alamuru 5-41). **Vivekanagar Cricketers: 172 all out in 37 overs** (Aayat Khan 39, Sachit Galatagi 29, Jagan TP 29, Likhith Jadhav 27; Vignesh Subhramaniyan 6-41, Rahul Jena 2-35) bt **Young Lions Club: 160 all out in 46.4 overs** (Tarun G 36; Shashank Prabhakar 5-30, Sachit Galatagi 2-16).

At some point we will boycott: Sabalenka

World number one Aryna Sabalenka said on Tuesday she was ready to boycott the Grand Slam tournaments in order to have a greater share of the prize money. "I feel like the show is on us. Without us there wouldn't be a tournament and there wouldn't be that entertainment," the four-time Grand Slam winner told a press conference at the Italian Open. "I feel like definitely we deserve to be paid more percentage. I think at some point we will boycott. I feel like that's going to be the only way to fight for our rights. "We girls can easily get together and go for this because some of the things I feel like it's really unfair to the players. I think at some point it's going to get to this."
However Poland's Iga Swiatek, a four-time French Open singles champion, believes boycotting tournaments "is a bit extreme".

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TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Built for Everyone. Run by Everyone. India Runs as One at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru

The world's premier 10K returned with a record 38,600+ runners, the highest-ever women's participation, ₹ 5 crore raised for charity, and a city that showed up in full force—where participation, community, and culture came alive

TCS WORLD 10K BENGALURU
26 April 2026

IDFC FIRST Bank
Associate Sponsor

More than 36,800 runners turned Bengaluru's streets into a river of motion on Sunday, 26 April, as the TCS World 10K became a powerful celebration of sport, community, and shared purpose. #EndendiguBengaluru.

Known as India's running capital, Bengaluru hosted a race that belongs to the world. With over 14,254 participants from outside Bengaluru, the event evolved into a true destination run, showcasing the city's spirit while boosting tourism and supporting local businesses, contributing meaningfully to the state's economy.

Women runners made a particularly powerful statement, with over 9,000 participants—marking a 140% rise since its inception. But the real story extends beyond numbers. It lives in the energy along the course, run clubs, NGOs, community groups, and citizens of all ages showing up, cheering, and transforming the route into a shared experience. That collective spirit is what keeps Bengaluru at the heart of India's running movement.

(L-R): At the flag-off, Blanka Vlašić, World Champion and Olympic medallist; Anju Bobby George, World Athletics Championships Medallist and Sr. VP, Indian Athletics; Basavaraju AP, Gen Sec KPCC; Madhu Goud Yaskhi, Former MP (Lok Sabha); Deepika T.C., Indian Cricket Blind Team Captain; Tejasvi Surya, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha); D.K. Shivakumar, Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister, Govt. of Karnataka; Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka; P C Mohan, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha); N.A. Harris, MLA, Shanthinagar; Sunil Deshpande, Head, TCS, Bengaluru; and Shri Karthik Reddy, IPS, Jt. Commissioner of Police, (Traffic), cheer on participants

"I've seen that not only the youth, but also senior citizens participate and run at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru. They inspire and encourage the younger generation. India's future is bright. On this occasion, I can say that the Government of India's Fit India and Khelo India programmes are taking shape. This race is regarded as one of the biggest in the world, and the city has received global recognition. I wish this race continued success. Thank you."

Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot,
Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka

And the finish line was only the beginning. Beyond sporting excellence, the event became a force for good, bringing together NGOs, corporates, and citizens to raise over ₹5 crore for social causes. With 100% waste management achieved, the TCS World 10K also reaffirmed its commitment to responsible and sustainable practices.

Sport continues to be a powerful enabler of sustainable development, and through the TCS World 10K and allied initiatives, this movement will continue to create meaningful impact—on the streets, in communities, and far beyond.

"I AM VERY HAPPY TO HAVE WON THE RACE. I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE INVITATION. TODAY, I TOLD MYSELF THAT AFTER 5K, I WILL PUSH MYSELF TO GO FOR THE NEW EVENT RECORD. SO I AM GLAD THAT I DID IT."

Burundi's Rodrigue Kwizera,
TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2026 winner and Event Record holder

Indian Women Winners felicitated by
(L to R): Vivek Singh, Jt. MD, Procam International; Basavaraju AP, Gen Sec KPCC; Shreepad Shende, CMO IDFC FIRST Bank; Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka; Shri D.K. Shivakumar, Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister Govt. of Karnataka; and N.A. Harris, MLA, Shanthinagar

"It is a matter of pride to see the TCS World 10K Bengaluru evolve beyond a race into a model for responsible city events. The event drives meaningful impact by supporting local businesses, boosting tourism, and generating employment. Equally commendable is its strong focus on sustainability, green practices, and the collective spirit of the community, working together towards a brighter tomorrow."

Shri P C Mohan,
Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)

"The Greater Bengaluru Authority is proud to support the TCS World 10K Bengaluru in delivering a world-class race experience—from ensuring clean, well-maintained roads for runners to championing sustainable and green practices. The event reflects our shared commitment to building a better city. It is initiatives like these that enhance urban living while showcasing Bengaluru at its very best."

Shri M. Maheshwar Rao, IAS,
Managing Director, Greater Bengaluru Authority

"Much like the Indian Army, the TCS World 10K Bengaluru embodies discipline, determination, and a deep sense of camaraderie. The race reinforces the role of fitness in building a strong and resilient society. Running the 10K alongside fellow participants and witnessing our Army cadet Harmanjot Singh win the Indian crown was a moment of pride."

Brig. Ranjeet Alva,
SM, Dy. GOC, Karnataka & Kerala Sub-Area, Indian Army

"The TCS World 10K Bengaluru is the best running event in Karnataka. It continues to be a unique platform for the police to connect and engage with the public in a positive and meaningful way. The Police Cup has been a longstanding tradition of the event, and it is encouraging to see increasing participation of our personnel, year after year. I was pleased to take part in the Open 10K myself and witness the energy levels during the event, firsthand."

Shri S. Ravi, IPS,
ADGP, Karnataka State Police Reserve, Bengaluru.

"Under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country is going through a revolution of fitness. It is incredible to see India and Bengaluru, particularly, emerge as a running hub. People across all age groups have so enthusiastically participated, and the way Procam conducts this event is truly world-class."

Shri Tejasvi Surya,
Member of the Lok Sabha

"Well, obviously, running is not the easiest thing to do. But I suppose you have to prioritise it and give it some time. I've been running less and trying my luck at the gym more. But I think I need to dedicate more time to running going forward and aim for a more respectable time. Though we finished today at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru, I feel there's still more to work on. Thank you so much."

Shri Yaduveer K.C. Wadiyar,
Member of Parliament

"It is heartening to witness the TCS World 10K Bengaluru's continued efforts towards building a greener race—be it through effective waste management, promoting sustainable modes of transport, or encouraging runners to take small yet meaningful steps towards responsible practices. Such initiatives not only enhance the overall race experience but also inspire a collective commitment towards a more sustainable future. All of this continues to elevate Bengaluru as a destination for world-class events. We wish the TCS World 10K Bengaluru continued success."

S. E Sudheendra,
Chairman, Karnataka State Bio Energy Development Board

"Sport is such a leveller; here, everyone comes together as one family. The city gives you energy, and in that moment, there's no hierarchy… just people celebrating life."

V Vaidyanathan,
MD & CEO, IDFC FIRST Bank

"It's great to see athletes push past their limits and find extra gear. It is a proud moment for us to see our Indian athletes push themselves and see them run with the world's best. This is what we need in India."

Anju Bobby George,
Sr. Vice President, Indian Athletics

"Having been associated with the TCS World 10K Bengaluru since its inception, it is inspiring to witness its remarkable growth in both scale and impact. With over 36,000 participants, including 9,000+ women and 14,000+ runners from outside Bengaluru, the event has evolved into a truly global movement. It stands as a proud symbol of Karnataka's commitment to health, fitness, and inclusivity. I extend my best wishes to all participants, sponsors, and Procam International for delivering yet another world-class event."

Dr. G. Parameshwara,
Hon'ble Home Minister &
President Karnataka Athletic Association

"The TCS World 10K Bengaluru is a great boost to the city, its economy, and tourism. I would like to thank TCS for taking up this initiative. More than 36,000 runners have participated, and events like this are the need of the hour."

Shri D.K. Shivakumar,
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister Govt. of Karnataka

"Running is a great way to exercise. You can do it anywhere, in almost any weather. You can do it on your own or with company, and you decide how far and how fast. Thank you to everyone in Bengaluru for being such amazing hosts. Thank you to everyone for cheering us along."

Shri Omar Abdullah,
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir

"It is a matter of great pride for Bengaluru and Karnataka to host the TCS World 10K Bengaluru here in my constituency, Shantinagar. It connects people and promotes a healthy way of life, which is very important. A healthy mind, a healthy body, and a healthy atmosphere are what we want."

Shri N.A. Harris,
MLA Shanthinagar, Govt. of Karnataka

Fortis Hospitals Strengthens Commitment to Holistic Health

Fortis Hospitals in Bengaluru continues its strong association as the official medical partner for TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2026, reinforcing its commitment to preventive healthcare, overall wellness, runner safety, and community well-being. Bringing together all its Bengaluru units, Fortis ensured robust on-ground medical preparedness, including a central medical base camp, 5 medical stations across the route, 6 fully equipped ACLS ambulances, 6 bike medics with AEDs, and 270+ trained healthcare professionals, including spotters.

Medical Partner

At a time when lifestyle-related health conditions are on the rise, especially among younger populations, Fortis is leveraging this platform to drive awareness around preventive care and healthy living. The initiative goes beyond race-day support, focusing on early detection, lifestyle modification, fitness, nutrition, mental well-being, and emergency response through CPR awareness and health initiatives.

Through its presence at one of the country's most iconic runs, Fortis aims to inspire individuals to take a proactive approach towards their health and adopt healthier, more active lifestyles. The message remains simple yet powerful: prevention and consistency are key to long-term well-being.

By supporting TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2026, Fortis Hospitals is not just safeguarding runners but also championing a larger movement towards a healthier, more active Bengaluru, where every step counts towards better health.

Legacy. Luxury. Leadership.

As ITC Windsor, Bengaluru, continues its association with the race, the hotel celebrates a legacy that is both enduring and evolving. Marking another year as the exclusive hospitality partner, the 2026 theme, "Timelessly Iconic – A Legacy That Runs Forward," reflects our commitment to championing conscious living through Responsible Luxury.

Hospitality Partner

At the heart of this association lies a deeper purpose—blending heritage with progress. This ethos shapes experiences that are iconic in spirit and future-ready in approach.

Over the years, ITC Windsor has upheld its position as a preferred hospitality partner for this prestigious global event. Hosting an elite line-up of international athletes, we curate personalised stays, thoughtfully designed menus, and bespoke services—delivering the warmth and excellence synonymous with ITC Hotels.

This year, we were privileged to host Blanka Vlašić, World Champion, Olympic medallist, and global sporting icon. From exclusive interactions to curated dining experiences, every touchpoint reflected our commitment to creating meaningful experiences.

Guided by Responsible Luxury, and as the world's first LEED Zero Carbon Certified hotel, our initiatives—from renewable energy adoption and EV charging infrastructure to SunyaAqua, our in-house zero-mile water bottling initiative—are designed to minimise environmental impact while elevating the guest experience.

Because true legacy doesn't stand still—it runs forward.

Celebrating the Journey of the Runner: Behind Every Finish Line #JourneyToTheStart

Marathons are more than just races; they are a celebration of endurance, discipline, and unwavering commitment. For every runner, months of training culminate in race day, making the entire journey as meaningful as the finish line itself. This spirit of perseverance lies at the heart of every runner.

As the official Associate Sponsor of marathons, including the TCS World 10K Bengaluru, IDFC FIRST Bank celebrated this journey by connecting with runners before, during, and after race day.

Associate Sponsor

At the marathon expo, the Bank curated a purposeful and immersive brand experience that seamlessly brought together sustainability, technology, and creativity. A life-sized Financial Snakes & Ladders game was designed to transform complex financial decisions into a simple experience, sparking curiosity and conversations around making smart money choices. Complementing this were engagement activities such as the AI photo booth and personalised medal mementoes, which added a deeply personal and emotional layer, allowing runners to take home tangible memories that captured the pride, effort, and emotions behind their marathon journey.

With over 30,000 runners visiting the expo across three days, these experiences resonated strongly, creating engagement that extended far beyond the booth experience and into meaningful brand recall.

The celebration continued on race day as runners crossed the finish line and paused at dedicated finisher photo zones. These spaces became moments of joy and triumph, where participants could capture, share, and celebrate the culmination of months of discipline, preparation, and personal accomplishment.

True to its customer-first philosophy, IDFC FIRST Bank continues to redefine everyday banking through transparent, simple, and value-driven offerings. Monthly interest credits, higher interest on savings balances above ₹3 lakh, and never-expiring reward points on credit cards reflect the Bank's promise of "Always You First."

Extending its commitment beyond banking, IDFC FIRST Academy, an initiative by IDFC FIRST Bank, aims to democratise financial knowledge, empowering every Indian to make informed financial decisions and build a secure financial future.

Sharing his thoughts on the association, Mr Shreepad Shende, Chief Marketing Officer, IDFC FIRST Bank, said: "Running a marathon and achieving financial well-being both demand preparation, discipline, and a long-term mindset. Through our association with distance running events, we celebrate individual journeys while reinforcing our belief in empowering people with the right knowledge, tools, and choices to move forward with confidence."

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ENRIQUE HEADING TOWARDS GREATNESS

SEMIS 1ST LEG: PSG 5 BAYERN 4

5 PSG's 1st-leg victory ended Bayern's 5-match winning streak in the fixture. Bayern have won 5 of their 7 home matches against PSG (L2).

If PSG can see off brilliant Bayern, he will be a step closer to becoming just the fifth coach to win three European Cups/Champions Leagues

Paris: Luis Enrique will join a select group of coaching greats if he leads PSG to Champions League glory again this season, and it is his remarkable management that has the French club tantalisingly close to reaching the final once again.

PSG head to Munich for the second leg of their semi-final against Bayern on Wednesday defending a 5-4 lead from an incredible first meeting which was one of the greatest matches in the competition's history.

The former Real Madrid and Barcelona midfielder nevertheless believes his side will need to score another three goals at the Allianz in order to see off the German champions and secure a place in the May 30 final in Budapest.

But he and his side need not look too far back for inspiration — their last visit to Munich ended in PSG hammering Inter Milan 5-0 in last season's final as they won the Champions League for the first time in their history.

Maybe, after all he has achieved in his career, Luis Enrique could have simply walked away following that triumph. But his motivation has remained intact this season. "We want to continue making history and that now means winning two Champions Leagues in a row," said the Spaniard.

The coach who led Barcelona to a treble in 2015 has now taken PSG to the Champions League semis for the third time in as many seasons since being appointed in 2023. His success seems to come down to that motivation, and an intensity of personality.

Luis Enrique turns 56 on Friday but that intensity also comes across in how he lives. This is a man who has competed in triathlons and run several marathons — once going under the three-hour mark in Florence. Sometimes seen walking around training ground barefoot, in Sept he fractured a collarbone after falling off his bike. He was quickly over that injury.

Up to now it has been a triumph of management, but the biggest test awaits in Munich. Luis Enrique could become the fifth coach to win three European Cups or Champions Leagues, after Carlo Ancelotti, Bob Paisley, Zinedine Zidane and Pep Guardiola. AFP

Injured Mbappe faces backlash over Sardinia trip before Clasico

Madrid: Sidelined with a hamstring injury, Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe has sparked anger among a section of the club's supporters after a holiday in Sardinia, ahead of Sunday's Clasico against Barcelona. United behind a shared image showing Mbappe with a "Fuera (out)" stamp over his face, some fans are openly calling for the French superstar to leave. Photos of Mbappe alongside actress Ester Exposito went viral too. "Part of the criticism is based on an overinter-pretation of elements related to a recovery period strictly supervised by the club," Mbappe made a statement.

FIFA invites Iran federation to headquarters: FIFA has invited the Iranian football federation (FFIRI) to its headquarters for talks over the country's participation at this year's World Cup.

Terzic for Bilbao: Former Dortmund boss Edin Terzic will take charge of Athletic Bilbao next season. AGENCIES

Advantage Arsenal in EPL race

Man City Title Hopes Take Huge Hit In Chaotic 3-3 Draw At Everton

Liverpool: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola admitted the Premier League title race had slipped out of his team's control after they were held to a chaotic 3-3 draw at Everton on Monday. "It's now not in our hands, before it was, now no," Guardiola said. "Four games we have (remaining) in the Premier League. They will be quite similar and we'll see what happens."

City had the chance to draw level on points with leaders Arsenal with victories over Everton on Monday and Brentford five days later. Instead, they find themselves five points adrift, albeit with a game in hand, and needing a wobble from Arsenal.

Guardiola was left to reflect on a point salvaged rather than three secured at Hill Dickinson Stadium.

"It's better than losing," he said. "We'd rather win. We play for that and we just showed what a team we are. We tried everything. The players were aggressive."

Winger Jeremy Doku struck the dramatic equaliser in the 97th minute to complete a double on the night, and echoed his manager's frustration while insisting City had not abandoned belief with four league games still to play.

"It's painful now but there's still a lot of games to go and anything can happen," Doku said. "We'll keep on fighting."

City striker Erling Haaland, who scored in the 83rd minute, could be heard saying "We're still in it" as he shook hands with his teammates after the final whistle.

Following Saturday's game against Brentford, City face Crystal Palace, Bournemouth and Aston Villa in their final three league games. Arsenal have the far easier schedule, at least on paper, with games against relegation-threatened West Ham United, already-relegated Burnley and Palace.

While their hopes of winning the league suffered a huge blow on Monday, City are technically still in the running for a domestic treble. They beat Arsenal to win the League Cup in March, and meet Chelsea in the FA Cup final on May 16. AFP

Reuters

CITY'S PEP

HOW THEY STAND

	P	GD	Pt
Arsenal	35	41	76
Man City	34	37	71

12 Since the start of 2026, City have dropped more points from winning positions than any other Premier League side (12) — a reminder of the unusual fragility that has crept in during recent weeks.

SNAP SHOTS

Gukesh warms up for P&B meet

World chess champion D Gukesh and his challenger Javokhir Sindarov warmed up for their matchup in GCT Rapid &Blitz meet in Warsaw, Poland, in contrasting ways on the opening day of the rapid section. Gukesh drew with Alireza Firouzja in a slightly better position with black pieces in the opening round, and then lost to American Hans Niemann with white pieces. The Indian was struggling in the third round against Jan Duda of Poland but pounced on a blunder to get a full point.

India lose to Japan: India fought hard without conceding a goal in the first half against formidable Japan but eventually lost 0-3 in their second group match of the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup in Suzhou, China on Tuesday. Japan took the lead through Yumi Hayashi and Yuzuha Ikeda then struck twice to hand the four-time champions their second win in Group B.

Deotale shines: Former world champion Ojas Deotale led from the front as India's men compound team secured a top-10 finish in the qualification round of the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai on Tuesday. Deotale was the best-placed Indian, shooting 711 points to finish seventh overall that set the tone for the team's effort.

Mishra, Yadav hit the front: Order of Merit leader Anshul Mishra came good on the homestretch to share the lead with Deepak Yadav on the opening day of the IGU Andhra Pradesh Amateur Golf Championship in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. Mishra birdied the seventh and eighth holes for his two-under 70. Yadav shot a bogey-free 70 to join the Kolkata teenager at the top.

Leading scores (after 18 holes): 70: Anshul Mishra, Deepak Yadav; 71: Hiransh Singh; 72: Shashank Sachin Gadre; 73: Naveen Rathi; 74: Tanish R Gowda, Ribhav Verma, Zoravar Randhawa, Harjai Milkha Singh, Vinamra Anand.

Skeet shooters miss out: Indian skeet shooters disappointed as they failed the reach the finals in both the men's and women's events in the ISSF World Cup Shotgun in Almaty, Kazkhstan on Tuesday.

ITA issues notice for Vinesh

Warns Her Of Possible Sanction After Wrestler Had Missed Dec 18 Test

Sabi.Hussain
@timesofindia.com

TOI

New Delhi: Barely a week to go for her highly-anticipated return to competitive wrestling, **Vinesh Phogat** has been formally warned by the International Testing Agency (ITA) for missing an out-of-competition doping test, marking her first "whereabouts failure" within a 12-month period.

The development comes at a time when the two-time

UNDERFIRE

World Championships medallist and three-time Olympian is preparing to compete in a senior open ranking tournament in Gonda from May 10 to 12 — her first competitive appearance since the Paris Olympics, and nearly 20 months after coming out of retirement. The event, to be held in former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's political stronghold, is expected to serve as a key pathway for wrestlers aiming to enter the national camp and stake a claim to participate in the upcoming Asian Games trials.

According to notice issued by the ITA, the missed test occurred on Dec 18, 2025, in Bengaluru, when a Doping Control Officer (DCO) was unable to locate Vinesh during her designated one-hour testing window. Athletes listed in the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) are required to provide a daily 60-minute slot during which they must be available for no-notice testing. Failure to do so can result in a whereabouts failure.

Vinesh was initially notified of the missed test on Jan 5, 2026, and she subsequently provided an explanation on Jan 19. She stated that she was attending the first winter session of the Haryana legislative assembly on the day of the test and had travelled from Bengaluru to Chandigarh, disrupting her routine. She also cited personal responsibilities following the recent birth of her child.

However, the ITA deemed her explanation insufficient. In its official notice, the anti-doping agency emphasised that while it acknowledged her commitments as an elected representative, the responsibility to remain available and update whereabouts information rests solely with the athlete. The ITA pointed out that Vinesh had multiple avenues — such as SMS, email, or a mobile app — to update her location but failed to do so.

The ITA has granted Vinesh seven days to request an administrative review of the decision. The notice was issued on May 4. Under rules set by the World Anti-Doping Agency and United World Wrestling, three whereabouts failures within a 12-month period constitute an anti-doping rule violation, leading to a suspension of up to two years.

RPF official cut the ropes

▸ Continued From Page 1

In the latest incident, the three pole vaulters were 20-year-old Kavinraja, Sakthi Mahendran, and R Vishal.

They boarded the Shalimar Express (Train No. 22642) around 6am on Monday, carrying eight poles. Following a complaint from a passenger, an RPF official at the Rajahmundry station cut the rope with a knife and the poles fell on the tracks. With the train in motion, one of the athletes pulled the chain to ensure that the poles were not destroyed.

Sakthi, incidentally a commercial cum ticket clerk (CCTC) , said that the poles were not causing any disturbance to the passengers, and said that he did not have any other option but to tie the poles to the window. He said the athletes took all safety precautions and made sure that the poles did not trouble the passengers. "Each pole costs Rs 1 lakh, and it is very difficult to buy new ones at short notice," Sakthi told TOI on Tuesday, on his return with Kavinraja and Vishal, via the Coromandel Express.

Madhurima storms into pre-quarters

Bengaluru: **Madhurima Sawant** headlined the Indian challenge on the opening day of the ITF W35 Tumakuru Open on Tuesday.

The 20-year-old's three-set victory stood out as one of the most impressive performances of the day. Madhurima displayed a blend of control and fighting spirit as she overcame Maria Mikhailova 6-2,

TENNIS

3-6, 6-1. Similarly, Pooja Ingale also came through a tough three-setter, edging past Danica Fernando 7-5, 1-6, 6-4 in a closely fought encounter.

In another all-Indian clash, Sandeepti Singh Rao got the better of Yashaswini Panwar 6-3, 6-4. Meanwhile, Sonal Patil delivered one of the most dominant wins of

the round, brushing aside qualifier Snigdha Kanta 6-0, 6-3 to progress into the last 16.

Ksenia Laskutova registered a win over seventh seed Michika Ozeki 6-3, 7-6(2), while fifth seed Elina Nepliy advanced with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Harshini Nagaraj.

Results: Singles (Rd of 32): Sandeepti Singh Rao bt Yashaswini Panwar 6-3, 6-4; Madhurima Sawant bt Maria Mikhailova 6-2, 3-6, 6-1; Ksenia Laskutova bt 7-Michika Ozeki (Jpn) 6-3, 7-6 (2); Pooja Ingale bt Danica Fernando 7-5, 1-6, 6-4; 5-Elina Nepliy bt Harshini N Nagaraj 6-4, 6-1; Sonal Patil bt Snigdha Kanta 6-0, 6-3.

Indian men bow out

The Indian men's team on Tuesday bowed out of the World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals after suffering a 0-3 drubbing at the hands of Austria in the round of 32 in London. Manav Thakkar and Sathiyan Gnanasekaran surrendered meekly while Manush Shah went down fighting in a tie that lasted an hour and 34 minutes. PTI

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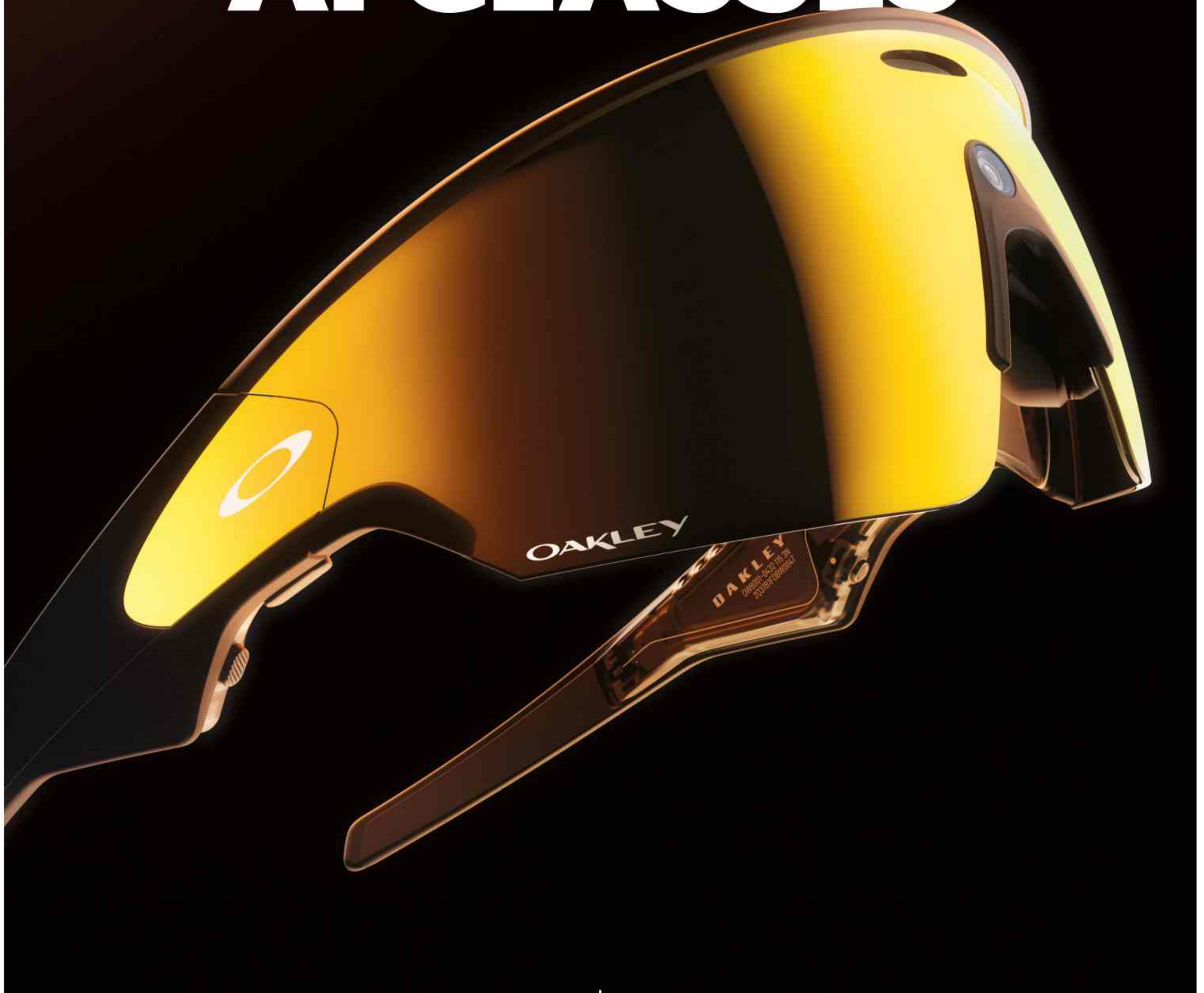

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